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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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In a 1st, Canada names India in cyberthreat list

Amid Nijjar killing row, Canada accuses India of 'likely' spying

OTTAWA, 2 NOV

Canada has for the first time named India in a list of cyber-threat adversaries, suggesting that state-sponsored actors could be spying against it.

Amid an ongoing diplomatic row, India is named fifth after China, Russia, Iran and North Korea in the National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026 (NCTA 2025-2026) report.

"We assess that Indian state-sponsored cyber threat actors likely conduct cyber threat activity against Government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage," the report said.

The development comes as the bilateral relationship has gone south since Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence that agents of the Indian government were involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June 2023, a charge dismissed as absurd by India.

While there was no mention of India in the National Cyber Threat Assessment reports of 2018, 2020 and 2023-24, the 2025-26 assessment mentions India – along with China, Russia, Iran and North Korea -- in the 'Cyber threat from state adversaries' section that introduces the state cyber threat ecosystem and discusses the cyber threats to Canada.

"India's leadership almost certainly aspires to build a modernised cyber programme with domestic cyber capabilities. India very likely uses its cyber programme to advance its national security imperatives, including espionage, counterterrorism, and the country's efforts to promote its global status and counter narratives against India and the Indian government," the assessment report said.

"We judge that official bilateral relations between Canada and India will very likely drive Indian state-sponsored cyber threat activity against Canada," it claimed.

Meanwhile, India said it has protested in the strongest possible terms the references made by a Canadian minister about Union Home Minister Amit Shah and warned that such "absurd and baseless" allegations will have serious consequences for bilateral ties.

India summoned a Canadian High Commission representative on Friday and the official was served a diplomatic note to lodge the protest in strongest terms on the "absurd and baseless" references made by the Canadian deputy minister about India's Union Home Minister. —*PTI*

India said it has protested in strongest possible terms references made by a Canadian minister about Union Home Minister Amit Shah ***PHOTO: PTI***

CONSULAR UNDER 'AUDIO & VIDEO WATCH': INDIA

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

India on Saturday accused Canada of indulging in "harassment and intimidation" of Indian consular staff there by putting them under audio and video surveillance in "flagrant violation" of diplomatic conventions.

Responding to a query during a media briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said India has "formally protested" to the Canadian government.

He was asked about reports claiming that many Indian diplomats in Canada were allegedly under surveillance amid the diplomatic standoff.

"Yes, some of our consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian government that they have been and continued to be under audio and video surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to Canadian government, as we deem these actions to be in flagrant violation of consular conventions." —*PTI*

WAFQ LAND DISPUTE

K'taka CM orders withdrawal of notices to farmers

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday instructed officials to immediately withdraw all notices sent to farmers concerning Waqf land issues.

A decision to this effect was taken during a high-level meeting, with senior officials from the Revenue department, the Minority Welfare department, and the Karnataka Board of Waqfs.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has issued a strict directive for the immediate retraction of all notices sent to farmers about Waqf land, emphasising that no disruption should be caused to them," a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) read.

The statement noted Siddaramaiah's dissatisfaction with recent actions by certain officials and highlighted concerns that the JD(S) and BJP were allegedly using the Waqf issue for political gains, potentially disrupting peace in the state.

"Siddaramaiah has urged the public to ignore any misinformation and directed officials to handle the matter with sensitivity," it added.

The statement also emphasised that all notices issued to farmers regarding land records tied to Waqf properties must be promptly withdrawn. Officials were instructed to avoid harassing farmers or causing any issues related to lands under possession.

The CM further directed that any unauthorised changes made to land records (Pahani or RTC) without prior notice or legal procedures should be immediately nullified.

The meeting was attended by Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, and senior government officials. However, Minority Welfare and Waqf Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan was not present.

Earlier, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said all District Deputy Commissioners have been directed not to issue notices to farmers under the Waqf Act. —*PTI*

Siddaramaiah ***PHOTO: PTI***

West Bengal girl raped, murdered; accused lynched

KOLKATA, 2 NOV

A girl was allegedly raped and murdered, following which enraged villagers lynched one of the accused in West Bengal's Alipurduar district, police said. The incident took place in Falakata area on Friday afternoon. The girl's body was found in a pond, following which the villagers tied a man, whom they alleged was one of the accused, to a tree and beat him up mercilessly, a police officer said. Police rescued the man, in his forties, and took him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Another person, suspected to be another accused in the case, surrendered himself before the local police station. Angry villagers staged protests demanding justice for the victim, and death penalty for the accused who surrendered. A huge police contingent has been deployed to maintain peace in the area. —*PTI*

Ammunition cartridges found in Delhi AI flight

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Ammunition cartridges were found in the pocket of a seat on an Air India flight AI916 flying from Dubai to New Delhi after it landed at New Delhi airport, an Air India spokesperson said on Saturday. The flight landed at New Delhi Airport on 27 October and all the passengers were safely disembarked from the flight. Following this, a complaint was lodged with the Airport Police by Air India strictly adhering to the laid down security protocols. Earlier, an Air India flight AI 216 which was set to return to New Delhi on Monday received a bomb threat. It is the second hoax call that Nepal's Tribhuvan International Airport has received within a week, officials confirmed. Nepal Army bomb squad along with the Nepal Police Canine division acted quickly to trace the possible explosive on board the plane at an isolated area of the airport, as per the officials. Over four hours of search proved the warning was a hoax call as no suspicious objects were found. Meanwhile, police are probing a case of security breach. . —*PTI/ ANI*

UK, US & Canada Sikhs to get free visas in Pak

ISLAMABAD, 2 NOV

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that Sikh pilgrims from the US, UK and Canada will receive free online visas within 30 minutes upon arrival in the country to pay respect to their religious sites.

Naqvi's remarks came as he met with a 44-member foreign delegation of Sikh pilgrims in Lahore on Thursday.

The minister warmly welcomed the Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan. He acknowledged that the Sikh pilgrims faced difficulties while visiting Pakistan in the past, according to a statement by the Ministry of Interior.

Naqvi announced that the government has made the visa process easier for Sikhs by making it online. He added that holders of American, Canadian, and UK passports can apply online and receive their visas within 30 minutes without any fees.

Naqvi also mentioned that the Pakistan government has started the facility of free-of-cost visas for the citizens of 124 countries.

Meanwhile, the leader of a prominent Punjabi association in North America welcomed Pakistan government's decision to grant free online visas within 30 minutes of arrival to Sikh members living in the US, UK and Canada.

North American Punjabi Association (NAPA) executive director Satnam Singh Chahal also urged the Pakistani and the Indian governments to reopen the Wagah border to facilitate cross-border trade.

Chahal in a statement welcomed the move, referring to the interior minister's remarks, and said it made the visa application easier.

With greater access to each other's markets, the balance of trade can become more equitable, benefiting both countries' economies, he added. —*PTI*

Mohsin Naqvi ***PHOTO: X***

- Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also mentioned that government has started facility of free-of-cost visas for 124 countries

2 TERRORISTS GUNNED DOWN

J&K: Top LeT commander killed, 4 injured in encounter

Security personnel move towards the house where militants were allegdly hiding during an encounter at Khanyar, Srinagar, on Saturday ***PHOTO: PTI***

SRINAGAR, 2 NOV

A top Pakistani commander of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) who was active in the Valley for several years was killed and four security personnel were injured in an encounter in the Khanyar area on Saturday.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the densely populated locality of Khanyar in the interior city following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area. The search operation turned into an encounter as the terrorists opened fire at the search party, which retaliated, a police official said.

One terrorist has been gunned down in the ongoing encounter, the officials said.

Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and two policemen were injured in the encounter. They were taken to the Army's 92 Base Hospital and their condition is stated to be stable, the officials said.

A senior police officer told PTI that the slain terrorist was a Pakistani and belonged to the LeT. "Usman was also involved in the killing of Inspector Masroor Wani," the officer said.

In another ongoing operation, two terrorists were gunned down by the security forces near Halkan Gali in the Shangus-Larnoo area in Anantnag district. —*PTI*

Farooq seeks inquiry into terror attacks

The ruling National Conference (NC) on Saturday sought an inquiry into the spike in terrorist attacks in the Valley since Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was sworn in, saying some elements were trying to defame an elected government. "Violence is taking place. There should be an investigation into it. Those involved should be arrested alive. We will get to know who is doing it as there are attempts to defame us," NC president Farooq Abdullah said.

Verification patrolling begins in Depsang: MEA

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Indian Army has commenced verification patrolling at Depsang, the second friction point in eastern Ladakh, the government said on Saturday.

Patrolling at Demchok had begun on Friday, a day after the Indian and Chinese troops completed disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

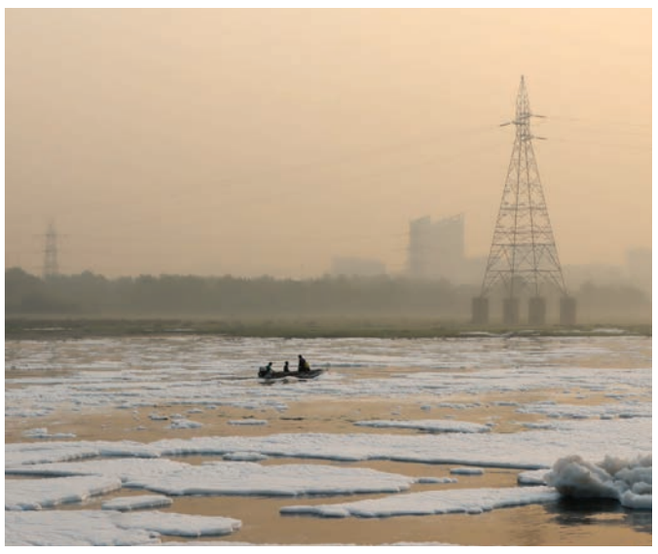
Replying to a query at a weekly press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling has begun on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok and Depsang.

On Thursday, Indian and Chinese troops also exchanged sweets at several border points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the occasion of Diwali.

The traditional practice was observed a day after both countries completed troop disengagement at the two friction points, bringing a fresh thaw in Sino-Indian ties.

Sources had earlier said that the areas and patrolling status were expected to be moved back to-April 2020 level. —*PTI*

TOXIC FOAM COATS YAMUNA



Toxic foam floats on the surface of the polluted Yamuna river, in New Delhi, on Saturday ***PHOTO: PTI*** ***>>>More on Page 4***

IN MEMORY OF ROHIT BAL

Valley boy who strode high in fashion

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

He blazed a trail on the catwalks of high fashion, blending traditional craft with bold aesthetics to create designs that found appeal in India and the west. Rohit Bal was a pioneer and legacy maker, his creations grandiose, his shows opulent – much like the man himself.

Known for his intricate use of rich fabrics like velvet and brocade adorned with signature flower and peacock motifs, Bal's creations redefined Indian couture on a global scale.

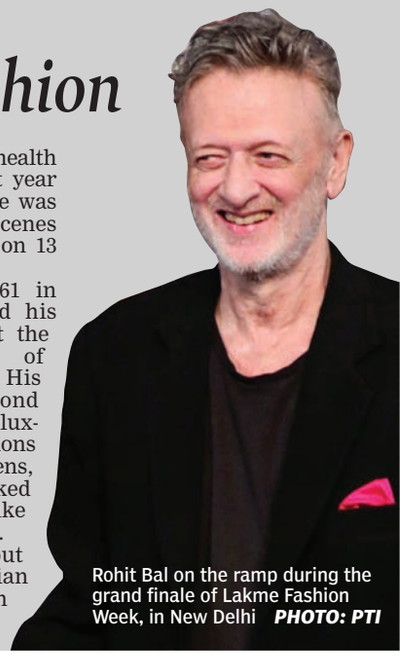
He was one of the early designers to take Indian fashion beyond its shores by dressing up Hollywood celebrities like Cindy Crawford, Uma Thurman, Pamela Anderson and Naomi Campbell.

In India, he was a much revered figure among celebrities. Actors such as Ranbir Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Katrina Kaif, Sonam Kapoor, Abhishek Bachchan, Arjun Rampal and others either walked for Bal or sported his designs at events.

The couturier, who died at the age of 63 on Friday night at a south Delhi hospital following a heart attack, was not keeping well for the last few years. Bal, who was fondly called Gudda by his peers and friends from the industry, pulled through a major health scare in December last year but true to his style, he was working behind-the-scenes for his final showcase on 13 October.

Born on 8 May, 1961 in Srinagar, Bal followed his passion for fashion at the National Institute of Fashion Technology. His influence went beyond fashion, extending into luxury product collaborations such as footwear, linens, jewellery, and he worked with industry giants like the Aditya Birla Group.

He may be gone but Bal's imprint on Indian fashion will serve as an inspiration. —*PTI*



Rohit Bal on the ramp during the grand finale of Lakme Fashion Week, in New Delhi ***PHOTO: PTI***

Rs 30L worth hydro weed cannabis seized, 2 arrested

MANGALURU, 2 NOV

Hydro weed cannabis worth Rs 30 lakh has been seized and one person arrested for allegedly supplying narcotics to the city from overseas, police said on Saturday. Central Crime Branch (CCB) confiscated 300 grams of high-value hydro weed cannabis and 2.5 kg of regular cannabis, along with other assets on Thursday, they said. Upon receiving credible information about the illegal transportation and sale of Hydro Weed cannabis, the CCB police launched an operation in the Kudroli area of Mangaluru. The police recovered cannabis valued at Rs 30 lakh, along with Rs 75,000 worth of regular cannabis, a mobile phone, and a digital weighing scale from Mohammed Hafeez (23). The total estimated value of the seized assets stands at Rs 30,85,500, they said. Investigation is underway to track down other individuals involved in this drug distribution network. —*PTI*

Police attacked with pepper spray at gambling den

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

At least 13 people were arrested in the City for attacking policemen with pepper spray at a gambling den in Byadarahalli, on Saturday. Speaking to Salar News, a senior official said that the team had received an input from credible sources regarding a rowdy sheeter and his associates running a gambling den at a place in Navilunagar. A team under Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Chandan Kumar was sent to the place on Friday. When the team raided the place, a few miscreants allegedly attacked the policemen with pepper spray in a bid to escape. As per the police, around 30 people were present at the place. The police on Saturday said that the main accused was identified as Rajan, a rowdy sheeter, while 12 others was found to be his accomplices. During the raid, the police also seized several mobile phones and Rs 3.8 lakhs in cash from the place. Further investigation is still on —***Salar News***

Ministers hit back at PM for his Cong jibe

Ministers urge Modi to engage in a transparent dialogue about pressing economic issues

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Karnataka ministers on Saturday united in their criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent comments about Congress party not keeping the promises they made during the polls.

Minister HK Patil described PM Modi's remarks as "irresponsible," questioning the Prime Minister's disregard for state governments and asserting that the Lok Sabha election results serve as a clear message. Minister Priyank Kharge echoed these sentiments, labelling Modi as "ill-informed" and urging him to engage in a transparent dialogue about pressing economic issues. Both Patil and Kharge underlined Karnataka's growth amidst challenges and called for greater accountability from the central government.

Speaking to ANI, Patil said,

Minister HK Patil ***PHOTO: PTI***

"A person who is in a position of Prime Ministers is uttering such irresponsible comments. Never in the history of India's democracy has a PM taken state governments so lightly... Are we looting and giving to Adani like you all are doing? Are we looting and giving to Ambani like you all are doing? The last (Lok Sabha) election result is a slap on your face; can't you understand that?"

Meanwhile, BJP leader R Ashoka criticised Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's tweets and claimed that the Karnataka government for their alleged practice of collecting 10 per cent from developers before assigning work and over 50 per cent after completion, implying that this money is sent to Delhi.

Kharge also expressed his thoughts on Modi's post on X (formerly Twitter).

Earlier, Kharge tweeted, asking for a "real dialogue and open debate comparing Modiji Ki Guarantee versus Congress Ki Guarantee in front of the media." He underscored that he wanted an open press conference without selective media and addressed "real questions on the state of our economy." He remarked, "No more Mann Ki Baat--just one open press conference where you can address real questions." Congress leader KC Venugopal also issued a rebuttal to Modi's criticisms of Congress-led governments.

—*PTI/ANI*

> **Because of these freebies, State's finances are in doldrums. Siddaramaiah has taken more than Rs 1 lakh crore loan last year and this year as well because of his political ambitions, he is not trying to see the truth**
>
> -Basavaraj Bommai, former chief minister

> **Today Karnataka is now a revenue deficit State under Siddaramaiah and his mindless, irresponsible, populist economy model**
>
> —Tejasvi Surya, BJP MP

> **Regarding our guarantees, the PM said that these can't implemented, but then he himself started 'Modi's guarantee'; many BJP-ruled states are introducing schemes like these**
>
> -HM Revanna, Congress leader

DKS counters PM's criticism

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday took a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for criticising Congress over poll promises, citing data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Shivakumar said: "Karnataka's GSDP growth for 2023-24 is 10.2 per cent, surpassing the national average of 8.2 per cent.""These are facts, backed by figures, supported by credible sources. The question is: do these facts even reach the Union government, or do they miss those who formulate tweets for the highest offices at the Centre?" he posted on 'X'. Shivakumar accused Prime Minister's Office (PMO) of misleading Modi regarding Karnataka's guarantee schemes. —*Agencies*

Look at BJP's 'disastrous legacy', CM tells Modi

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah ***PHOTO: PTI***

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'guarantees' comment, saying he should look at the 'disastrous' legacy of BJP Karnataka unit before pointing fingers at the Congress.

He joined the war of words between Congress and BJP over AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's remark on poll guarantees at a party event.

"Mr. @narendramodi, before pointing fingers at Congress, take a hard look at @BJP4Karnataka's disastrous legacy in Karnataka! We are fulfilling every promise we made to our people all 5 guarantees implemented with a budget over Rs 52,000 crore, and an additional Rs 52,903 crore in capital outlay to build Karnataka's future," Siddaramaiah said in a post on 'X'.

He also hit out at Modi for his 'bad governance'.

"And let's not forget: under your watch, India's debt is projected to reach Rs 185.27 trillion by FY25 a staggering 56.8 per cent of GDP! This isn't just bad governance; it's a burden you're placing on every Indian's back," Siddaramaiah stated.

While Congress in Karnataka has delivered, BJP continues to fail Indians nationwide, he claimed.

Kharge on Thursday told Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar to be well within the financial limits.

In response, Modi launched a fierce attack on the Opposition party as he seized on Kharge's comments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted.

—*PTI*

DKS: HDK shedding 'crocodile tears'

MANAGALURU, 2 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has accused former Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy of shedding "crocodile tears" during elections but disappearing when people need him most. "Where was he when the people of Kanakapura were in pain?" the KPCC President said in Mangaluru on Saturday.

Shivakumar questioned the JD(S) leader's contributions to Channapatna when he was an MLA. "Despite being a people's representative, he didn't hoist State and national flags. It was CP Yogeeshwara who addressed local issues, filling up tanks in the taluk, while Kumaraswamy was busy with 'adjustment politics' with BJP."

He said Kumaraswamy's family, including his wife, represented Channapatna but did little for its progress.

DK Shivakumar ***PHOTO: PTI***

"Our government, meanwhile, has launched development projects worth hundreds of crores, reaching over 22,000 citizens directly," Shivakumar said.

Byelection to the Channapatna Assembly segment will be held on 13 November.

On Waqf properties, Shivakumar dismissed BJP leader Basangouda Patil Yatnal's comments, labelling them as the remarks of a "mentally unstable" person, and pledged to address any errors in handling Waqf property notices.

—*Salar News*

NIKHIL WILL WIN AT ANY COST: KUMARASWAMY

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy on Saturday expressed optimism about the NDA's chances in the upcoming Channapatna by-elections, stating that he is confident that the NDA candidate and his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy will win at any cost, with the blessings of the goddesses.

Speaking on his decision to field his son, Kumaraswamy said, "In politics, some decisions are taken to strengthen the party. Due to recent political developments, we decided to field Nikhil Kumaraswamy. In Channapatna's 'Agni Pariksha' (toughest exam), Nikhil will win. Nobody can do anything; the voters themselves will decide."

"I have had tears in my eyes multiple times, but whenever I have cried, it has been for people's problems. In this election, did I cry? Can everybody shed tears? It all depends on emotions,"he added. —*ANI*

BLOT ON THE LANDSCAPE

Waste discarded during festivals remain uncleared on Avenue Road in Bengaluru on Saturday ***PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD***

PHOTO: PTI

CM: WILL INCLUDE KANNADA LABEL ON PRODUCTS

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has assured steps to include Kannada language on the labels of all products manufactured in the State, in addition to English.

He also warned of stringent action against those who insult Kannada and Kannadigas on social media.

Speaking at 69th Karnataka Rajyotsava event on Friday, the Congress leader said, "Products manufactured in Karnataka, whether by the private or government sector, typically have labels only in English. In the future, we will aim to include Kannada as well."

The Chief Minister also announced plans to convert the 'attarah kacheri' (18 offices) on the premises of the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner's office into a 'Kannada Museum.'

Siddaramaiah urged attendees to pledge their commitment to fostering a Kannada-friendly environment across the state and to assist newcomers to Karnataka in learning the language.

At another Rajyotsava event on Friday, the Chief Minister addressed the growing trend of disrespecting Kannada and Kannadigas on social media, calling it "treachery against Karnataka" (Nadadroha). "The government will mercilessly take stringent action," the CM Siddaramaiah said.

—***PTI***

Multi-state gang busted, 2 arrested

MANAGALURU, 2 NOV

Mangaluru police have uncovered a multi-state, multi-crore scam with the arrest of two men accused of defrauding an e-commerce giant across India, officials said on Saturday.

The suspects, Raj Kumar Meena, 23, and Subhash Gurjar, 27, from Rajasthan, are alleged to be part of a large-scale fraud spanning over 10 states, including Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Karnataka, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar. The scam, reportedly, involved orders worth Rs 11.45 lakh placed under a false identity. The accused used the name Amith, to place orders, for two high-value cameras and other items, providing a fictitious address near the

Two men defrauded an e-commerce giant ***PHOTO: FREEPIX***

KSRTC bus stand in Mangaluru.

Upon delivery, Meena collected the items and provided the OTP while Gurjar distracted the delivery personnel. They, then, swapped the original stickers on the Sony camera boxes, with those of other items in the order, delaying delivery confirmation by using an incorrect OTP and arranging to collect the cameras the next day.

—*PTI*

20 schools in Kalaburagi, Belagavi get classes on good eating habits

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) and Nourishing Schools Foundation (NSF) have signed an MOU to implement a toolkit-based education programme in 20 schools in Kalaburagi and Belagavi districts, to enhance students' understanding of nutrition.

"The idea is to help children take charge through hands-on games and activities," said Archana Sinha, founder of NSF, to PTI.

The pilot project of the toolkit-based education programme that began on 28 October will continue till 31 December, 2026.

"We are hoping to inculcate basic hygiene and good eating habits as well as menstrual hygiene for girls through this pilot project," said Saileela Malladi, consultant adviser at

The programme is aimed at enhancing students' understanding of nutrition ***PHOTO: X***

KRIES, who is in-charge of special initiatives as well as bringing about collaboration with NGOs.

Sinha said their programme is data driven as they usually start with an extensive baseline survey of the children.

According to her, NSF was established in 2016 and so far, they have managed to cover 330 government schools in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Assam and Tamil Nadu, reaching over 1 lakh students.

Malladi said KREIS has about 800 residential schools in Karnataka catering to the children of safai karamcharis, as well as devdasis, rag pickers and under-privileged children. While NSF will provide training, resources, and assessments, KREIS facilitates school selection and teacher engagement. —*PTI*

CITY SEES 30 CASES OF EYE INJURIES FROM CRACKERS

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

City reported 30 additional cases of eye injuries caused by firecrackers, on Saturday. Among the injured was a 12-year-old girl from North Bengaluru, who may face partial vision loss in her left eye after an accident while attempting to light a cracker.

At the State-run Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, doctors treated nine cases on 2 November alone, all involving children. Since 28 October, the hospital has seen close to 40 cases related to firecracker injuries. Of the nine cases from Saturday, five involved severe injuries, including corneal tears and epithelial damage, which are expected to cause notable vision impairment in one eye. Doctors confirmed that one child has been admitted for further treatment. —*Agencies*

GOLDEN HOUR

Report cybercrime quickly: City top cop

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

A City resident lost Rs 4.43 crore to fraudsters who introduced him to a fake stock trading app through a WhatsApp group. Another City resident from Jayanagar received a call from a fraudster who claimed to be from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. The fraudster told him that his SIM had been flagged for illegal activities and as a part of the investigation, he must share his bank account details through Whatsapp. After sharing the details, the victim lost Rs 23.5 lakh from his bank account.

In both these cases, the money could have been recovered if it had been reported during the 'Golden Hour'. In cybercrime cases, Golden Hour refers to the period (within 1 hour) immediately following a cyberfraud, data breach or cyber attack. Golden Hour plays a crucial role in recovering the money lost in cyber frauds, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda told Salar News. The actions taken by law enforcement agencies during this period can significantly impact the effectiveness of the response, containment and recovery efforts.

Bengaluru reported 12,356 cases in eight months of 2024, according to the data released by the Cybercrime department. The City reported 17,623 cases in 2023, and 9,940 cases in 2022.

An official from Karnataka Cybercrime, Criminal Investigation Department said there are processes involved in detecting a case. "Police cannot act independently and require necessary permission and infrastructure to crack cyber-related cases. The criminals use advanced technologies, hack international servers and use SIM cards connected to foreign networks," he said.

In cyber fraud, most cases go unreported and among the ones reported, the detection and recovery rates are less. This is because cybercriminals frequently updated their tactics, the official said.

—*Salar News*

DETECTION RATE DIPS

Year	Cases registered	Detection rate (%)
2023	17,623	8.1
2022	9,940	22.8
2021	6,422	35.1

Hoteliers to consider legal action to operate 24/7

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Disappointed by the lack of progress by Home Department in granting them permission to operate their business round the clock, Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association (BBHA) on Saturday said they are now considering legal action to obtain necessary approvals.

On 27 September, Karnataka government announced that commercial establishments and shops employing ten or more people would be permitted to operate around the clock. However, Bengaluru Police Department is yet to grant consent for this policy, leaving hoteliers confused.

President of the BBHA told Salar News that they had met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Home Minister G Parameshwara multiple times regarding the request. But the police department still remains hesitant to provide them the necessary permission even after the announcement made by the Home Minister.

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda said the authority to grant permission lies with the government and not police department. —*Salar News*

Sena MP is sorry for comment against Shaina

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant on Saturday apologised for his alleged insulting remark targeted at rival Shiv Sena's Assembly election candidate Shaina NC, a day after a case was registered against him in this connection. Sawant maintained that he has never insulted any woman in his life, and added that a controversy was created for political reasons ahead of the Assembly polls. "I have always been in the forefront of giving women their due respect. My remarks were distorted and I was deliberately targeted. This hurt me. Still if my comments hurt anybody's sentiments, I regret it and apologise for the same. In my 55 years of public life, I have never insulted women," he said. —*PTI*

Petrol bomb thrown at Punjab Sena leader's home

LUDHIANA, 2 NOV

Three unidentified persons allegedly hurled a petrol bomb at the residence of a Shiv Sena (Hind) leader in Model Town here in the early hours of Saturday. No one was injured in the incident, according to police. CCTV footage showed the attackers who were on a motorcycle throwing a bottle containing inflammable liquid toward the home of Harjot Singh Khurana, a leader of Shiv Sena (Hind)'s Sikh wing. The incident comes around a fortnight after three motorcycle-borne persons hurled a petrol bomb at the house of Shiv Sena (Bharti) leader Yogesh Bakshi in Chandar Nagar locality here. On Saturday, Khurana initially dismissed the noise from the petrol bomb explosion as a Diwali firecracker but later discovered that a neighbour's car had been partially damaged. The police said broken pieces of glass were found scattered near the wall of his house. Additional Police Commissioner, Ludhiana, Shubham Aggarwal said the accused would be identified soon. —*PTI*

FIR against SP MLA for threatening witness in 2021 case

VARANASI, 2 NOV

An FIR has been registered here against Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Om Prakash Singh and four others for allegedly breaking into the house of a witness in a 2021 case against him and threatening him and his family members, police said on Saturday. The FIR was registered at Bhelupur police station on Friday on the directions of a special MP-MLA court, they said. On the night of 26 June, 2023, SP MLA from Jamania Om Prakash Singh, his son Ritesh Singh, Chittupur Corporator O P Singh, Nand Lal Keshri and an unidentified person barged into the house of Gautam Ghosh in the Sundarpur area. Ghosh is the main witness in a case registered against Om Prakash Singh at Sigra police station here in 2021, Bhelpur Station House Officer (SHO) Vijay Kumar Shukla said. The accused hurled abuses at Ghosh's wife and threatened to break her arms and legs if he testified in the case.—*PTI*

UP Cong leader removed amid offensive video row

BAGHPAT, 2 NOV

The Congress' Baghpat district President in Uttar Pradesh Yunus Chaudhary has been removed from his post after a video purportedly showing him in an objectionable position surfaced on social media, according to the party. Chaudhary, however, claimed the video was edited and manipulated by his rivals as part of a political conspiracy against him. The video purportedly shows Chaudhary engaging in indecent behaviour with a woman. However, in a statement on social media, Chaudhary claimed the video was part of a "political conspiracy" by his rivals who had "edited and circulated" it to tarnish his reputation. —*PTI*

Fadnavis denies claims of biased aid

Congress launches ad to mock Mahayuti govt

PUNE, 2 NOV

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday dismissed NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's allegations that police vehicles are being used to provide financial assistance to candidates of the ruling parties ahead of the assembly polls.

Fadnavis is in Pune to meet key party workers ahead of the elections scheduled to be held on 20 November.

Earlier in the day, Pawar claimed that police vehicles are being used to provide financial assistance to the candidates of the ruling parties in Maharashtra ahead of the assembly polls.

Talking to reporters here, Fadnavis said the NCP (SP) chief is hallucinating because such things happened when the opposition parties were in power.

Meanwhile, Minister Girish Mahajan said the security cover of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was upgraded after intelligence inputs.

However, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut took a dig at Fadnavis on the issue.

"Who poses a danger to Fadnavis? He is the home minister of the state. Is he facing danger from the CM? How can the home minister enhance his security and deploy a commando force which is trained to fight terrorists? Is Israel, Ukraine going to attack Fadnavis," Raut asked. Congress called for a probe into alleged "blackmail" and "coercion" used to bring NCP leader Ajit Pawar into the NDA fold and said the BJP's "washing machine" was nowhere more powerful.

Security cover of Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was upgraded after intelligence inputs **PHOTO: PTI**

In another development, the Maharashtra Congress launched its campaign to target the Mahayuti government over its "lack of support" to farmers. Congress's Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala released an advertisement titled "Injustice to Farmers - Ata Chalnar Nahi (not acceptable any more)" here. —*PTI*

Ex-minister Anees returns to Cong after failing to file papers

Former Maharashtra minister Anees Ahmed, who missed the deadline by a whisker to file his nomination as Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) candidate, returned to the Congress on Saturday. AICC in-charge Ramesh Chennithala welcomed Ahmed back to the fold, which he had quit last week to contest the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections as candidate of the VBA from the Nagpur Central seat. —*PTI*

Soren asks PM, HM to clear J'khand's dues

Soren says J'khand's development is hampered

RANCHI, 2 NOV

Ahead of the scheduled visits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to poll-bound Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Saturday requested the Centre with folded hands to clear Rs 1.36 lakh-crore coal dues to the state.

Modi is scheduled to address two rallies in Jharkhand on 4 November while Shah will address three public meetings on Sunday.

"Modi and the home minister are coming to Jharkhand. I once again request them with folded hands to clear the outstanding (coal dues) of Rs 1.36 lakh crore to Jharkhandis. This amount is crucial for Jharkhand," Soren said on X.

He also appealed to BJP MPs to facilitate clearance of the amount.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren during a public meeting ahead of the state Assembly elections, in Khunti district of Jharkhand **PHOTO: PTI**

"I would also appeal to my BJP colleagues, especially the MPs, to help Jharkhandis in getting our dues," Soren posted on the microblogging site, sharing a copy of a letter to the prime minister.

Soren emphasised that the dues with central PSUs, like Coal India, are "rightful" to the state and claimed that "non-clearance is causing irreparable harm to Jharkhand's development".

A recent ruling by a nine-judge Supreme Court bench affirmed the state's right to collect its mining and royalty dues. Soren pointed out that the development of Jharkhand and essential socio-economic projects are getting hampered. "This delay in payment of the just demand raised by the state has constrained me to write to you that this negligence is causing irreparable damage to Jharkhand and its people.

JMM leader Kalpana Soren urged Centre to implement a universal pension scheme i on the pattern of Jharkhand and provide Rs 1,000 per month to beneficiaries.The Jharkhand assembly polls will be held in two phases – 13-20 November. —*PTI*

INDIA bloc partners in for 'friendly battle' on 3 seats

The INDIA bloc partners in Jharkhand are set for a "friendly battle" in three assembly seats in the upcoming assembly polls, bloc leaders said on Saturday. Meanwhile, JMM and CPI-ML have already decided to go for a friendly fight in Dhanwar Assembly seat, while Congress and RJD are still trying to avoid a friendly contest in Chhattarpur and Bishrampur seats, they said at a joint press conference here. —*PTI*

India, US aim to tackle illegal immigration

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Days after the US authorities deported a batch of Indian nationals who were staying in that country illegally, New Delhi Saturday said it hopes that with India-US cooperation on mobility and migration, "we will be able to deter illegal immigration".

At his weekly briefing here, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India engages in "regular dialogue" with the United States on migration and mobility.

"On 22 October, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), conducted a large-frame charter removal flight to the Republic of India of Indian nationals who did not establish a legal basis to remain in the United States," the DHS said in a statement last week.

This week's flight demonstrates the department's continued commitment to pursuing "sustained cooperation" with the Indian government and other international partners to reduce and deter irregular migration and jointly work to counter human smuggling, it had said.

Randhir Jaiswal **PHOTO: ANI**

- About 1,100 Indians, who were staying in the US illegally, were repatriated to India through charter and commercial flights during the 2023-24 American financial year ending 30 September

Jaiswal, in response to a query on this deportation, said, "You would have seen, recently we had some deportations from the US. We have a regular dialogue with the United States on migration and mobility. And the idea behind that is to create more avenues for legal migration."

About 1,100 Indian nationals, who were staying in the United States illegally, were repatriated to India through charter and commercial flights during the 2023-24 American financial year ending 30 September, a senior official in the US DHS said on Tuesday. —*PTI*

Udhayanidhi: TN opposes Hindi imposition, not Hindi

KOZHIKODE/CHENNAI, 2 NOV

Deploring that many north Indian states lacked a film industry of their own to protect their identity and cultural ethos, as the south does, Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday said if states failed to protect their own languages, then Hindi will take over and erode their identities.

This was the reason why the Dravidian movement is against Hindi imposition, but it did not have any animosity towards that language, he said.

Speaking on literary and linguistic ethos in Dravidian politics, he said the Dravidian political movement in Tamil Nadu,has held long the literature and language as its foundation pillars. "This fusion of literary, linguistic, and political ethos created a powerful identity that profoundly shaped Tamil Nadu's social and political landscape," he said, speaking at the Art and Literature festival of Manorama Daily group at Kozhikode, Kerala on Saturday. He said both Tamil Nadu and Kerala have kept the fascist and communal forces at bay. —*PTI*

PM, Greek PM review progress in ties

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Greece counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis have appreciated the momentum in bilateral ties following recent high-level exchanges.

An official statement said on Saturday that the two leaders reiterated their firm commitment to further strengthening the India-Greece strategic partnership. In his call to Modi, Mitsotakis warmly congratulated him on his re-election. Both leaders appreciated the momentum generated in bilateral ties through recent high-level exchanges and reiterated their firm commitment to further strengthen India-Greece Strategic Partnership.

The Greek Prime Minister was on a state visit to India in February, this year.

During the call, Modi and Greek Mitsotakis reviewed the progress made by the two countries in various areas of bilateral cooperation, in follow-up to Mitsotakis's visit to India earlier this year.

During Modi's visit to Greece in 2023, the two countries had ensured the fruition of the objective of doubling bilateral trade by 2030. India also welcomed Greece into the International Solar Alliance and upgraded the bilateral ties to the level of a "Strategic Partnership".

Since then there has been a fillip in the India-Greece ties. —*ANI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis **PHOTO: PTI**

EAM, Thai counterpart discuss ties

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Thai counterpart Maris Sangiampongsa discussed bilateral ties, multilateral cooperation and regional developments during a meeting in Delhi on Saturday.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said Sangiampongsa's visit for the Royal Kathina ceremony "exemplifies the long-standing historical and cultural relations" between the two countries.

The Thai minister is scheduled to depart India on Sunday.

Jaishankar also shared pictures of the meeting at the South Block.

Thailand's Foreign Affairs Minister Maris Sangiampongsa with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New Delhi **PHOTO: PTI**

"Delighted to meet FM @ AmbPoohMaris of Thailand today in Delhi. His visit for the Royal Kathina ceremony exemplifies the long-standing historical and cultural relations between our two countries. We discussed India-Thailand ties, multilateral cooperation and regional developments," he said.

Royal Kathina is a traditional Buddhist ceremony.

The two ministers also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and reiterated their commitment to closer cooperation in sub-regional, regional and multilateral fora, the Ministry of External Affairs had said. —*PTI*

WAQF ROW

Owaisi raises issue over Waqf board representation

HYDERABAD, 2 NOV

AIMIM chief and MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday criticised the Modi government's proposed Waqf ammendment bill, questioning the mandatory inclusion of two non-Muslim members in the central Waqf Council.

Owaisi questioned that if Muslims cannot be trustees of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) then how can a non-Muslim be in the Waqf board?

Addressing a press conference AIMIM chief Owaisi said, "Not even a single member of the 24 members of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD Board) is a non-Hindu...The new Chairman of TTD says that the people working there should be Hindu...We are not against this, we just have an objection to the fact that Narendra Modi's government is saying in the proposed bill of Waqf that in the central Waqf Council, it has been made mandatory that 2 non-Muslim members should be there...Why are you bringing this provision in the Waqf bill? TTD is a board of the Hindu religion and Waqf Board is for the Muslim religion. There should be parity..."

Asaduddin Owaisi **PHOTO: ANI**

His comments came after newly appointed Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Chairman BR Naidu on Thursday said he would prioritise discussions with the government about employees of other religions working at Tirumala, considering whether they should be transferred to other departments. "We used to frequently go to Tirumala. I thank Naidu and NDA leaders for appointing me. I consider this a turning point in my life. The previous government made a lot of mistakes there. I did not go to Tirumala even once in 5 years because I felt that it did not have its sanctity," he said.

The Waqf Act, 1995, which was created to regulate waqf properties, has long faced allegations of mismanagement, corruption and encroachments. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which was introduced this August, seeks to bring sweeping reforms, introducing digitisation, stricter audits and many more. —*ANI*

Ruling Left in Kerala asks BJP to change symbol to 'sack'

PALAKKAD, 2 NOV

The ruling CPI(M) party in Kerala on Saturday took a dig at BJP, which is in a tough situation following a former party functionary's revelation about the 2021 Kodakara black money case, by saying that it should "change its party symbol from lotus to a sack".

Kerala PWD Minister PA Mohamed Riyas also attacked the Opposition Congress by accusing it of being silent on the lack of any action in the black money case by ED. "Many things have been made clear by the new revelations and one of them is that BJP should change its party symbol from lotus to a sack," the minister told reporters.

While the minister attempted to show there was an arrangement between BJP and Congress as the grand old party was silent on case, Youth Congress state President Rahul Mamkootathil claimed that there was actually a deal between the saffron party and CPI(M). —*PTI*

Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu fills a pothole during the launch of 'pothole-free roads' at Vennelapalem district on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Naidu launches ₹861 crore pothole-free roads mission

VENNELAPALEM, 2 NOV

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday launched a mission to achieve pothole-free roads in the state here, at a cost of Rs. 861 crore.

Kickstarting the state-wide mission from Vennelapalem village in Anakapalli district, the Chief Minister personally repaired a pothole by filling it with mortar. Later, a large pothole was also fixed in his presence by dumping material onto it by a truck.

Calling the roads laid under the YSRCP regime between 2019 and 2024 as 'highways to hell', the Naidu insisted that if roads were not repaired regularly, they would pose dangers to the lives of people travelling over them. —*PTI*

Kerala airport to halt ops for 5 hrs for procession

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

Flight services from the international airport here will be suspended for five hours on 9 November to make way for 'Alpassi Arattu' procession of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple here, TIAL said on Saturday. The annual procession traditionally taken on a route crossing the runway. The Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Ltd (TIAL) said the flight services would be suspended from 4 pm to 9 pm on 9 November. It said the updated timings of the flights are available with the respective airlines. "The runway at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport remains closed twice a year for the Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple procession to pass through. The airport has been pausing operations and rescheduling flights twice every year for decades to enable the bi-annual, centuries-old ceremonial procession of the shrine to pass through the runway. —*PTI*

4 killed after being hit by train in Kerala

PALAKKAD, 2 NOV

Four sanitary workers, including two women from Tamil Nadu, were killed after being hit by the Thiruvananthapuram-bound Kerala Express near Shoranur Railway Station on Saturday evening, the Railway police said. The New Delhi-Thiruvananthapuram train struck the workers around 3.05 pm while they were clearing garbage from the railway track near Shoranur bridge, located a few kilometers from the railway station. The workers, contracted by the Railways for sanitation duties, were thrown from the track due to the collision's impact. While three bodies were retrieved from the area, efforts are being made to locate the fourth, which is suspected to have fallen into the Bharathapuzha River, police said. "The workers may not have noticed the approaching train, which resulted in the accident, but further investigations are underway," said an officer with Shoranur Railway Police. —*PTI*

Maoist camp busted in Odisha, ammo recovered

BHUBANESWAR, 2 NOV

Police busted a Maoist camp in a forest in Odisha's Nuapada district and recovered explosive materials from there, a senior officer said on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off about the movement of CPI (Maoist) cadres, two special operation groups (SOG) launched a search and destroy operation in Patdhara and Sunabeda reserve forests on the night of 30 October. "On 1 November, one SOG Assault team identified a suspected Maoist camp associated with the DGN divisional committee of the CPI (Maoist). The location was in a dense forest near Bhainsamundi (Bahadurpani) village," a police statement said. —*PTI*

1,400 held for riding in women's compartments

KOLKATA, 2 NOV

More than 1,400 male passengers were arrested by RPF in the Eastern Railway zone in October for travelling in train compartments designated for women, an official said on Saturday. Urging male passengers not to travel in ladies' compartments or ladies' special trains, the official said that women passengers may dial 139 to get help from the railway authorities in case of any inconvenience. The Railway Protection Force in the ER zone registered more than 1,200 cases and arrested over 1,400 male passengers regarding the issue. The penal measures will be initiated against offenders, including both fines and imprisonment, for boarding train compartments designated for women only. —*PTI*

Delhi's air quality falls into 'very poor' category again

AQI 'poor', 'very poor' in several parts of HP post Deepavali

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

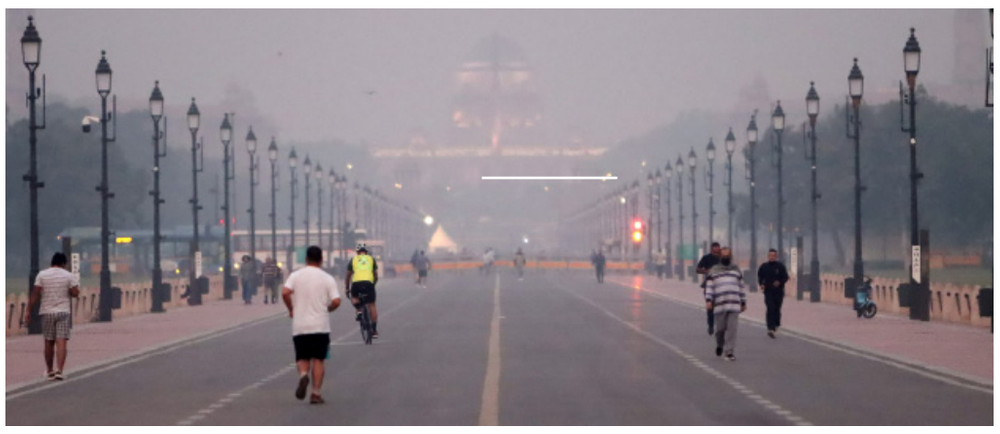
The pollution situation deteriorated in Delhi on Saturday, with the air quality falling into the "very poor" category again after showing improvement in the morning.

The capital's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI), recorded at 4pm every day, stood at 316, worsening from 290 recorded in the morning.

Air pollution levels reached the "severe" category (AQI above 400) at Anand Vihar, while the 27 other monitoring stations in the city recorded the AQI in the "very poor" category, with levels above 300.

However, Gurugram (209), Greater Noida (250) and Noida (269) recorded slightly better AQI levels, falling in the "poor" category, while Faridabad's AQI (166) was in the moderate category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data.

Despite people flouting the ban on firecrackers on Deepavali night on Thursday, Delhi's air quality did not enter the "severe" category as expected due to favourable winds.



Delhi's AQI stood at 316, worsening from 290 recorded in the morning **PHOTO: PTI**

Himachal Pradesh

The air quality at various places across Himachal Pradesh deteriorated post-Diwali due to bursting of crackers, officials said.

The air quality of Shimla was satisfactory with AQI 66 against 78 last year as the district administration had allowed the bursting of firecrackers from 8 pm to 10 pm only. The data also showed that the noise pollution declined by 20 per cent as compared to last year on Diwali, officials said on Saturday.

Maharashtra

A thick layer of smog engulfed the area near Marine Drive on Saturday morning as air quality continued to deteriorate in Mumbai. Air quality in Mumbai was recorded at 192 at 10 am on Saturday.

A woman said that she was unable to see anything or breathe properly due to the smog. She said that every year after Deepavali, Marine Drive is completely covered in smog.

West Bengal

The air quality index in Kolkata was in the 'poor' category on Saturday. AQI in terms of PM 2.5 was 288 in Ballygunge, 210 in Jadavpur, 211 in Rabindra Bharati University and 219 in Bidhannagar at 9 am, all classified as 'poor', the official told PTI. —*PTI*

WANTED IN HIGH-PROFILE CASES

Mumbai cops seek Anmol's extradition after alert from US

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

The Mumbai police have sent a proposal for extradition of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol Bishnoi, who has been named as an accused in some high-profile crimes, including the Baba Siddique murder case, an official said.

The proposal was sent after the US authorities informed the Mumbai police about Anmol Bishnoi's presence in their country, the senior police official said on Saturday.

Last month, the Mumbai police's crime branch moved the special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court here stating that it intends to "initiate the extradition procedure of fugitive criminal Anmol Bishnoi". It filed an affidavit "for further necessary action", which was allowed by the special court.

Both Lawrence and Anmol have been named as wanted accused in the 14 April firing incident outside the Bollywood actor Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartment in Mumbai's Bandra area.

Vicky Gupta and Sagar Pal had carried out the firing. They, along with Sonukumar Bishnoi, Mohammed Rafiq Choudhary and Harpal Singh, were arrested and are currently in judicial custody.

One accused Anujkumar Thapan committed suicide during his police custody.

In the chargesheet filed in the case, police have shown Lawrence Bishnoi and Anmol Bishnoi as wanted accused in the case.

The National Investigation Agency recently announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for information leading to the arrest of Anmol.

Lawrence is currently lodged in a jail in Sabarmati in Gujarat. —*PTI*

3- year-old girl raped, killed by relative in Andhra

During questioning, the accused confessed his crime and was taken into custody **PHOTO: PTI**

TIRUPATI, 2 NOV

In a shocking incident a three year old girl was allegedly raped and murdered by her relative in Vadamalapet area of Tirupati district in Andhra Pradesh, said police.

According to the police, the man was a close relative of the victim, lured with chocolates and took her to a nearby field on Friday evening around 4.30pm. He then raped and killed her, burying her body on the spot.

The police arrested the accused and sent the victim's body to Puttur Government Hospital for post-mortem.

Tirupati SP Subbarayudu stated that the accused had been arrested and confessed to the crime, using the pretext of buying chocolates to abduct the child. This heinous act has sent shockwaves through the community, sparking outrage-Home Minister Anita expressed deep shock over the rape and murder of a 3-year-old girl. The minister assured the grieving family that the government would extend full support to their investigation and also pledged a thorough justice for the victim.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has ordered Rs 10 lakh financial assistance for the family. And Home Minister Anita Vangalapudi will visit the family tomorrow. —*ANI*

Actor Joju threatens film reviewer over criticism of his film

T'PURAM, 2 NOV

Malayalam actor-director Joju George has landed in trouble for allegedly threatening a film reviewer over a Facebook post criticising his directorial debut "Pani", which hit theatres recently.

The conversation between George and the reviewer, a has gone viral on social media platforms following which the actor came up with an explanation justifying his act. In the conversation, George could be heard angrily speaking to Adarsh HS and challenging the latter to meet him directly. George came out with a clarification claiming that he has not intimidated anyone —*PTI*

ON ALERT

South Peninsular India and TN receive heavy rainfall: IMD

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Due to deep circulation in the area of the Gulf of Mannar South Peninsular India and Tamil Nadu's southern region received heavy rainfall on Saturday.

"We have received reports of heavy rainfall, mainly from South Peninsular India and Tamil Nadu. However, there are no reports of heavy rainfall from the rest of the country. Heavy rainfall is likely over Tamil Nadu and Kerala for the next 2-3 days, but most parts of the country will remain clear," IMD scientist Soma Sen Roy.

While speaking to ANI, IMD scientist Soma Sen Roy talked about the gradual fall in minimum and maximum temperature over Northwest and East India by 2-3°C during 3-7 November.

"Talking about temperature, the minimum temperature has dropped by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in the Doab region in the last 24 hours. The overall temperature over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and South Doab region is 2-4 degrees above normal. Minimum temperatures are expected to fall by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius from tomorrow morning. Temperatures are likely to fall at isolated places," she said.

IMD has said that heavy rainfall is likely over Tamil Nadu and Kerala for the next 2-3 days **PHOTO: PTI**

The IMD has issued an advisory to stay indoors and avoid any travel, if possible, ensure children and animals are inside and also remove any loose timber or debris which might cause an accident.

If outside, then it is advised to get away from metal structures and objects which conduct electricity and keep away from all utility lines, including phone and power lines, metal fences, trees etc.

—*ANI*

NEET by itself is 'irregularity' alleges DMK

CHENNAI, 2 NOV

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) per se is an "irregularity," Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK alleged on Saturday and wondered how such a test could be conducted without defects.

The Dravidian party's official organ, 'Murasoli,' in an editorial argued yet again against the test and referred to 'news reports' that a high level committee of experts has submitted a 'report' to the Centre to hold the national test online to prevent irregularities.

The Supreme Court on 21 October , 2024 extended by two weeks the time granted to the Centre-appointed seven-member expert panel to file its report on exam reforms after reviewing the National Testing Agency's functioning in holding the NEET-UG. The top court took note of the fact that the report of the panel was almost complete and granted two more weeks for filing the same.

Citing instances of alleged impersonation witnessed in some northern states during physical NEET tests, the Tamil DMK daily pondered the outcome of an online exam. "That will not be an online exam. That will only be an (aspirant) impersonation test." —*PTI*

MP elephant deaths: Centre, MP initiate parallel inquiries

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

The Union government has initiated an inquiry into the death of 10 elephants in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh this week.

Four wild elephants were found dead in Sankhani and Bakeli under the Khitoli range of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve on 29 October, with four more dying on 30 October and two the next day. Preliminary reports from Madhya Pradesh officials suggest that the elephants may have died due to poisoning.

The Union Environment Ministry said in a statement that the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has set up a team to investigate the elephant deaths.

The Madhya Pradesh government has also formed a five-member committee, led by the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), to look into the incident.

Madhya Pradesh wildlife officials said the cause of death will be confirmed after a thorough investigation, detailed postmortem finding **PHOTO: X**

The head of the State Tiger Strike Force (STSF) is also investigating the matter. The STSF has been searching the forests and nearby villages and is conducting an in-depth inquiry into the incident, the statement said.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden of Madhya Pradesh is currently in Bandhavgarh to oversee the investigation and ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

The additional director general of forests (Project Tiger and Elephant), member secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, and AIG NTCA, Nagpur, visited the sites to discuss with state officials the issues and causes of the elephant deaths.

State wildlife officials said the actual cause of death will be confirmed after a thorough investigation, detailed postmortem findings, and results from histopathological and toxicological analyses, along with other supporting evidence.

In the meantime, state officials have implemented preventive measures to ensure similar incidents do not recur while monitoring of other elephant herds in and around Bandhavgarh Reserve has been intensified. —*PTI*

40TH ANNIVERSARY

Anti-Sikh riot survivors recall 1984 tragedy

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Sonia was three years old when her parents and uncles were killed during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi.

Her sister, who was 13 at the time, later told Sonia about the violence and killings of people from the Sikh community following former prime minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, she said in Delhi on Saturday at a press conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of the riots.

"I was three years old... My sister told me about the incident and how my father and uncles were killed," she said.

Gandhi was assassinated at her home on 31 October, 1984, by her two bodyguards Beant Singh and Satwant Singh.

During the press conference, senior advocate HS Phoolka said he and his team were releasing a series of 20 documentary videos titled "1984 Genocide Unending Quest for Justice" on the riots' 40th anniversary.

Senior advocate of Delhi High Court, Harvinder Singh with victims of 1984 anti-Sikh riots, Darshan Kaur during a press conference **PHOTO: PTI**

Twelve videos were released on Saturday. The rest will be released in Chandigarh on 9 November.

Darshan Kaur, who was nursing an infant son and two toddlers at the time of the riots, recounted the day her life changed forever.

A mob descended on her home and, despite her repeated pleas, she watched helplessly as her loved ones were attacked.

According to the Nanavati Commission report, 587 FIRs were registered in connection with the riots that witnessed the deaths of 2,733 people in Delhi. Of the total, the police shut about 240 cases as "untraced" and about 250 resulted in acquittals.

In May 2023, the CBI filed a chargesheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler for his alleged role in the killings of three people on 1 November, 1984.

About 400 people in 27 cases were convicted. Of them, about 50 people were convicted for murder, including former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar. —*PTI*

Classmates of slain officer send Deepavali sweets to unit

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Classmates of an Army officer from Maharashtra, who laid down his life battling militants near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, have sent 300 kg sweets to soldiers in his unit.

Col Santosh Mahadik, the Commanding Officer of 41 Rashtriya Rifles, was critically injured during the operation in the Haji Naka Forest area of Kupwara in November 2015 and succumbed to his injuries at a hospital later.

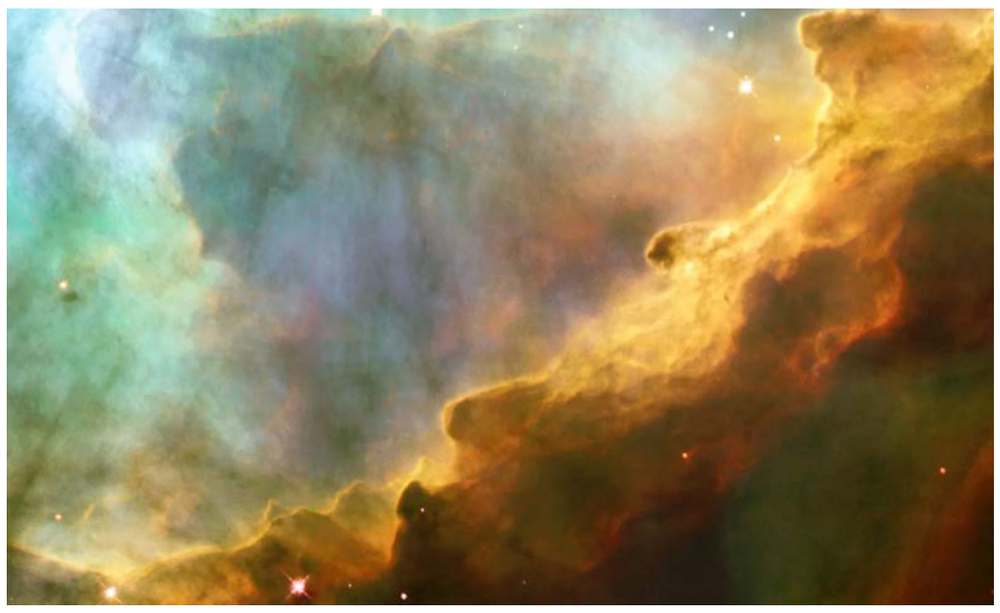
The "mithai" boxes, weighing 300 kg, landed at Srinagar airport from Chandigarh in an Air Force transport aircraft and were delivered to personnel of the 41 Rashtriya Rifles, for distribution among the soldiers the martyr once commanded, a classmate of Col Mahadik, involved in this initiative, said. Mahadik's classmates, who include several serving and retired officers from the armed forces, have launched the initiative which they call 'Operation Deepavali'.

—*PTI*

COSMIC WISHES

In celebration of Deepavali, NASA shared breathtaking images of a vibrant star-forming region within M17, also known as the Omega Nebula or Swan Nebula, captured by the Hubble Space Telescope. M17 is one of the largest star-forming regions in the Milky Way galaxy This detailed image, focused on the nebula's central area, has been color-enhanced to emphasize specific wavelengths of light: green indicates oxygen, while red reveals hydrogen and infrared light

PHOTO: X/@NASA



Climate crisis: Can smog improve India-Pak ties?

Relations between India and Pakistan have largely remained tense and stagnant for years. Now, an unlikely catalyst is promising to facilitate dialogue between them: deadly smog that is enveloping key cities in both countries.

A senior government official from Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, which borders Indian Punjab, revealed that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has shown an interest in visiting her Indian counterpart to address the pressing issue of air pollution. Both Lahore and New Delhi have recently ranked among the world's most polluted cities.

"Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz will be sending a letter to Indian Punjab's Chief Minister [Bhagwant Singh Mann] in the coming days. She has expressed her willingness to visit India and extend an invitation for him to visit Pakistan," Raja Jahangir Anwar, Punjab's secretary for environment and climate change, said.

Anwar added that, given the adverse climatic conditions affecting the region, Pakistan is also considering hosting a regional climate conference in Lahore before the year ends.

"We recognise that these matters fall under external affairs, requiring approval from the federal government and relevant stakeholders, but this situation is urgent," he emphasised. "If this can bring Pakistan and India together, along with other countries, why waste this opportunity?"

Since September, falling temperatures, changing atmospheric conditions and domestic emissions have severely affected Lahore and New Delhi, with air quality indices (AQI) frequently surpassing 300 micrograms of PM2.5 – fine particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns or smaller. That is far above the limit of 100 micrograms of PM2.5 that is considered acceptable.

The PM2.5 particles are released from both human activities and natural events and pose serious health risks, as they can penetrate deep into human respiratory systems.

Since September, falling temperatures, changing atmospheric conditions and domestic emissions have severely affected Lahore and New Delhi

PHOTO: ANI

With the ever-increasing air pollution levels, Nawaz, daughter of three-time former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif and a proponent of normalising relations with India, has in recent days reiterated her commitment to pursuing "climate diplomacy". Speaking at a Diwali event in Lahore on Wednesday, she emphasised the need for both nations to collaborate on this issue. "This matter has to be resolved diplomatically with India. I am considering writing a letter to Indian Punjab's chief minister. This is not a political issue, it is a humanitarian one," she said.

Nawaz further added that while her government is taking steps to address the crisis, reciprocal action from India is essential.

"Winds don't know there is a line [border] in between. This has to be done for the betterment for Indian people and their wellbeing, as well as for Pakistan's people too," the chief minister said.

The plea for collaborating with India comes as Lahore has seen the presence of PM2.5 exceed even 700 micrograms in recent days. The government has announced imposing a "green lockdown" in Lahore, a city of 15 million people, banning various commercial and construction activities.

During the early hours of 1 November , according to live data monitored and compiled by IQAir, a Swiss climate group, New Delhi was the most polluted city in the world with 585 micrograms of PM2.5 in its atmosphere, closely followed by Lahore, which recorded 240 micrograms of PM2.5.

Muhammad Farooq Alam, a deputy director at Pakistan Punjab's Environmental Protection Agency, explained that the worsening air quality during autumn and winter results from various factors. Cold air is heavier than warmed air and sinks close to the surface of the Earth, along with the particles it carries.

Alam said sources of the pollution included industrial emissions, vehicular traffic, residential and commercial outputs – and stubble burning, a controversial practice in which farmers burn the remnants of existing crops to clear the ground in order to sow a new crop for the upcoming season.

According to an IQAir report released in April 2023, South Asia remains the most severely affected region in the world for air pollution.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that average annual PM2.5 levels should not exceed five micrograms per cubic metre, last year saw Bangladesh, Pakistan and India among the countries with the worst air quality indices.

—Courtesy, Al Jazeera

LETTERS

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SALAR ساڈھ

Kids with sweet tooth face diabetes risk as adults

It's tough news to hear on Halloween: a sugary diet in the first two years of life is linked to a higher risk of diabetes and high blood pressure decades later, according to an analysis of UK sugar rationing in the 1950s.

The amount of sugar a child consumed after turning six months old seemed to have the biggest effect on the risk of developing a chronic disease later in life. But people exposed to more sugar in the womb also had a higher risk of diabetes and high blood pressure compared to those who were conceived when access to sugar was limited.

Economist Tadeja Gracner was pregnant with her first child and on doctor-ordered bed rest when she and her colleagues first arrived at these conclusions, which are published in Science on 31 October. "I was like, 'No, no, no. This is the last thing I need.'," she says. "I was probably eating a chocolate at the time."

The results do not mean that pregnant people and parents of young children need to eliminate added sugars from their own diet or their child's, says Grainer, who works at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. But there could be room for cutting back: in the United States, pregnant and lactating people typically eat more than three times the recommended amount of added sugar. "It's all about moderation," she says.

People conceived during sugar limitations had a 35% lower risk of diabetes and a 20% lower risk of high blood pressure

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Childhood diet's long shadow

The UK study is not the first to link early-life nutrition to disease risk later in life. Previous work has shown that experiencing famine while in the womb can double the risk of diabetes later in life. But data from tragedies such as famines and war can be difficult to interpret, says Valentina Duque, an economist at American University in Washington DC. "Often, these big, historical shocks affect so many things," she says. "You don't know what's because of nutrition, or stress, or changes in income or household dynamics."

Sugar rationing in the United Kingdom offered an opportunity to take a more detailed look at the impact of nutrition on later life. Economic hardship during the Second World War forced the government to institute food rations, and limits on sugar were not lifted until 1953, years after the war ended. By then, most other aspects of nutrition had normalised to meet standard daily recommendations. By the time Gracner started her own research group and began piecing together a proposal with her colleagues to study the event, another tool had become available: the UK Biobank, a repository of genetic and medical data from half a million participants. After confirming that sugar intake had risen dramatically after the rations lifted, the team mined the biobank for people who had been conceived between October 1951 and June 1954, when the rations were in effect. They then compared the health of these people with the health of people who were conceived between July 1954 and March 1956, after the rations were removed.

Undeniable effect

The researchers found that the people conceived during the sugar limitations had a 35 per cent lower risk of diabetes and a 20 per cent lower risk of high blood pressure than people conceived after the rationing.

The magnitude is surprisingly large, says Duque. "It's undeniable," she says. "The big change here has to do with sugar." Duque says that the results should add fuel to efforts to educate pregnant people about the importance of good nutrition. Gracner agrees education is crucial but doesn't want anxious parents to overreact to her findings. "Pregnant people already have so much to worry about," she says. "If it's just a little sugar here and there, everybody's going to be fine."

—Courtesy, Nature

The amount of sugar a child consumed after turning six months old seemed to have the biggest effect on the risk of developing a chronic disease later in life

PHOTO: AI

Guns and social media amplify political violence during US prez polls

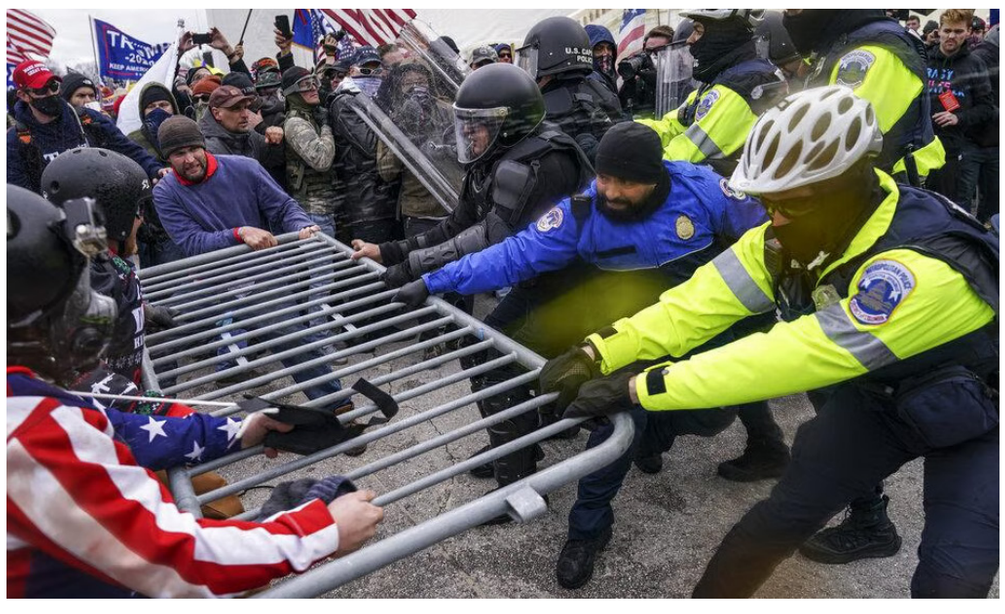
Political violence is hardly new to America. Since the country's inception, gunmen have shaped its political landscape, from the Civil War to the Ku Klux Klan, to high-profile assassinations and the bombing of federal buildings. Yet the threat of political violence has deepened in recent years and intensified during the 2024 election cycle. At least 400 distinct incidents of political violence were reported in the first two quarters of 2024, a nearly 80 percent jump from 2022. Targets have ranged from a former president and politicians to election administrators, municipal leaders, school officials and even emergency responders.

The Department of Homeland Security has repeatedly underscored the rising threat of political violence, identifying far-right extremists as the most significant domestic threat to American security. A small number of such groups are rallying on the streets, though many more are active online. In the first half of 2024 alone, nearly one in five local elected officials reported receiving threats. This month, the DHS described the threat of violence linked to the 2024 election cycle as "high".

Political violence is typically defined as the use of physical force to injure a person to advance a political objective. It has surprisingly strong backing in the US: In 2022, roughly one in three American adults felt that political violence was always justified to "protect American democracy", "save the American way of life", or to "save the country". Alarmingly, one in seven Americans strongly agreed with the statement that "in the next few years, there will be civil war in the US." Although these figures slightly declined by 2023, justification for political violence is disturbingly widespread.

The risk of political violence is likewise amplified by the availability of firearms. The US is an outlier when it comes to guns: there are at least 370 million of them in circulation. Between 30 and 40 percent of all Americans claim to personally own at least one firearm. Gun ownership surged in the past decade with surveys showing that over half of US adults lived in a household with a gun in 2023, up from 42 percent in 2013. Intriguingly, the largest increase in gun ownership between 2020 and 2021 appears to have been among liberal and democratic-leaning citizens.

Whether recent purchasers or long-time owners, gun owners typically express higher support for political violence than non gun-owners, with many viewing arms as tools to be mobilized in defense of "American values." What is more, assault rifle owners and people who regularly seem to be more inclined to see political violence as justified, more willing to engage in it, more willing to kill to advance political objectives, and more willing to organise a violent group.



At least 400 distinct incidents of political violence were reported in the first two quarters of 2024, a nearly 80 percent jump from 2022

PHOTO: PTI

The same 2024 survey found that among MAGA Republicans, beliefs in potential civil conflict and readiness to bear arms in such a scenario are notably high. Roughly 30 percent of MAGA Republicans strongly believe a civil war is likely in the coming years — three times the rate among non-MAGA Republicans. This diverges from political violence during the 1960s and 1970s, where radical leftist groups were often singled out as the primary actors. Today's violent potential has largely shifted to the far-right and is more deeply intertwined with gun culture and paramilitary groups.

America's gun culture and political fragmentation are priming a nation that is already distinctly vulnerable to gun-related violence. In 2021, nearly 49,000 Americans were killed by firearms, with homicide accounting for half of those deaths. Also striking is the role of guns in suicides, accounting for the remaining half of firearm fatalities, which collectively mark the U.S. as a deadly outlier among developed nations. Mass shootings, while accounting for less than 2 per cent of total gun deaths, fuel public concern.

Beyond physical confrontations, the online world is another front in the spread of political violence. Social media has revolutionized recruitment and radicalization, with platforms fostering echo chambers where threats, intimidation, and instructions for violence circulate with near impunity. The US Capitol Police investigated over 8,000 threats against Congress members in 2023, reflecting an increase of nearly 50 percent since 2018. Meanwhile, threats to federal judges surged 150 percent from 2019 to 2023. Social media's economic incentives for engagement drive sensationalism and outrage, often leaving women and minorities particularly vulnerable to harassment.

The anonymity and viral nature of digital spaces introduce new risks. Some militias and extremist groups disguise propaganda under innocuous names, building covert networks to train, organize, and radicalize users. Platforms like Facebook, Telegram, YouTube, X and online gaming communities are in some cases normalizing right-wing extremism, with militias recruiting "active patriots" including current and former law enforcement, military personnel, and disillusioned youth urging them to "stand up" and "be prepared" for civil war. Anti-government sentiment, migrant hostility, and white nationalist messaging often serve as recruitment tools.

Ultimately, America's struggle with political violence and domestic extremism underscores the need for a multi-pronged approach, beginning with clearer enforcement of militia laws, responsible gun laws including background checks, red flag laws and an assault rifle ban, and stronger social media regulations and liability for platforms that allow extremist content to circulate. However, these measures require political will and public buy-in, all in short supply in the US's polarized political landscape.

—Courtesy, The Conversation

2 killed, 6 injured in Orlando Halloween shooting

ORLANDO, 2 NOV

A gunman who opened fire during a Halloween Street celebration that drew thousands of costumed revellers to downtown Orlando killed two people and wounded six others early Friday, authorities said. Officers arrested a 17-year-old male suspect, the city's police chief Eric Smith said during a briefing. The shooter fired in in the city's downtown bar and restaurant district around 1 am. Officers responded as costumed celebrants fled on foot, and the same gunman then fired again about a block away, the six wounded, who range in age from 19 to 39, were taken to a hospital and were in stable condition. —*PTI*

Pak approves bill to raise number of SC judges to 25

ISLAMABAD, 2 NOV

A Pakistan parliamentary panel has approved a controversial bill to increase the number of judges in the Supreme Court from 17 to 25 despite its disapproval by the opposition lawmakers who termed it an attempt to manipulate the judiciary. 'The Supreme Court Number of Judges Amendment Act 2024' which sought to increase the number of judges from 17 to 25 was moved in the Senate last month by independent senator Abdul Qadir to deal with the rising number of 'pending cases'.

It was then referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Justice, which met on Friday and its meeting was chaired by Senator Farooq H Naek of the Pakistan Peoples Party. The committee approved a bill proposing an increase in the number of judges in the Supreme Court (SC) from 17 to 25 despite opposition from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI). After the committee's approval, the bill would be presented to the Senate for discussion.—*PTI*

Badenoch elected new leader of UK Conservative Party

LONDON, 2 NOV

Kemi Badenoch, shadow secretary of state for housing, communities and local Government, was on Saturday declared the new leader of the conservative party to succeed Rishi Sunak in the House of Commons as leader of opposition. The 44-year-old Nigerian-heritage parliamentarian defeated former cabinet minister Robert Jenrick after a three-month-long leadership election following Sunak's resignation after the Tories suffered a bruising general election defeat on 4 July. As the first black leader of the conservatives, Badenoch began by thanking her predecessor – who was the first British Indian leader of the party. "I want to thank Rishi, no one could have worked harder in such difficult times. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Serbia mishap: 14 dead, search for survivors called off

NOVI SAD, 2 NOV

Serbian rescuers stopped searching for survivors on Saturday after pulling out 14 bodies from underneath tons of concrete from a fallen canopy at the entrance of a railway station in the northern city of Novi Sad. Serbia's government declared Saturday a day of mourning as officials promised a thorough investigation into Friday's collapse of the roof that fell on people sitting below it. The dead included a 6-year-old girl from North Macedonia while three people were seriously injured, Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said. The train station has been renovated twice in recent years, and critics of Serbia's populist government attributed the disaster to corruption and sloppy renovations. —*PTI*

Trump calls Kamala's policies 'a disaster'

Trump to launch a 'new economic miracle'

WASHINGTON, 2 NOV

Describing the economic policies of Vice President Kamala Harris as a disaster, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Friday said he would launch a brand new economic miracle after he wins the elections.

Trump promised to build American, buy American, and hire American. "We will end Kamala's economic disaster and launch a brand-new Trump economic miracle," Trump said at a campaign rally in Detroit, Michigan, a battleground State where he is slated to hold his last rally on Monday night.

He said Harris' failed economic agenda wiped out nearly 30,000 private sector jobs just recently, and nearly 50,000 manufacturing jobs just over the last short period of time. "You lost 50,000 manufacturing jobs."

Trump alleged that under Harris' "nation-wrecking policies, the American worker is absolutely drowning. 'You're drowning".

"Kamala vowed to abolish ICE. She pledged to confiscate your guns... she even called for free sex changes for illegal aliens in detention. All at taxpayer expense. But perhaps most significant of all, she lied about working at McDonald's. She never worked," he said.

PHOTO: PTI

"With your vote, this November, we are going to fire Kamala and we are going to save America. We will cut your taxes, end inflation, slash your prices, raise your wages. and bring thousands and thousands of factories back to America and back to Detroit, Michigan," he said.

He promised, "I will end the war in Ukraine. Would have never started if I was president. I will stop the chaos in the Middle East. Would have never happened October 7th. And I will prevent World War III from happening," he said.

The former president said his administration will crush violent crime and give police the support, protection, resources, and respect that they so dearly deserve. He said he will defend religious liberty and restore free speech. —*PTI*

US deserves better than Trump: Kamala

She vows to unite Americans as campaign closes

WASHINGTON, 2 NOV

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pits Americans against one another, his Democratic rival and Vice President Kamala Harris alleged Friday and asserted her pledge to pursue common sense solutions and to be a president for all Americans.

"America deserves better than what Trump is offering. America deserves a president who understands our role and responsibility to our people and to the rest of the world to be a model," she said.

Campaigning in the presidential elections entered the last few days with both Harris and Trump making closing arguments before voters in the key swing states. "As you have heard me say many a times, my pledge to the American people is to pursue common sense solutions, to listen to those, even those who disagree with me, to listen to experts, and to be a president for all Americans," Harris told reporters.

"Trump's closing argument is very different. He pits Americans against one another. He spends full time having Americans point their fingers at one another. And he spends a considerable amount of time plotting his revenge on his political opponents," she said.

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris speaks at a campaign event on Saturday in Little Chute, Wis PHOTO: PTI

She said that as of last night, Trump has indicated that the person who would be in charge of healthcare for Americans people is someone who has "routinely promoted junk science and crazy conspiracy theories", and who once expressed support for a national abortion ban.

"His enemies list has grown longer, his rhetoric has grown more extreme, and he is even less focused than before on the needs and the concerns and the challenges facing the American people," she said. —*PTI*

MIDDLE EAST TENSION

Iran's supreme leader threatens Israel & US

DUBAI, 2 NOV

Iran's supreme leader on Saturday threatened Israel and the US with "a crushing response" over attacks on Iran and its allies.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke as Iranian officials are increasingly threatening to launch yet another strike against Israel after its Oct 26 attack on the Islamic Republic that targeted military bases and other locations and killed at least five people.

Any further attacks from either side could engulf the wider Middle East, already teetering over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Israel's ground invasion of Lebanon, into a wider regional conflict just ahead of the US presidential election this Tuesday.

"The enemies, whether the Zionist regime or the United States of America, will definitely receive a crushing response to what they are doing to Iran and the Iranian nation and to the resistance front," Khamenei said in video released by Iranian state media.

PHOTO: PTI

The supreme leader did not elaborate on the timing of the threatened attack, nor the scope. The US military operates throughout the Middle East, with some troops now manning a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, battery in Israel.

The 85-year-old Khamenei had struck a more cautious approach in earlier remarks, saying officials would weigh Iran's response and that Israel's attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed."

Iran's allies, called the "Axis of Resistance" by Tehran, also have been severely hurt by ongoing Israeli attacks, particularly Lebanon's Hezbollah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. —*PTI*

US strengthens presence in the Middle East

WASHINGTON, 2 NOV

Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin is sending additional bomber aircraft and Navy warships to the Middle East to bolster the US presence in the region as an aircraft carrier and its warships are preparing to leave, US officials said Friday. Austin ordered several B-52 Stratofortress bomber aircraft. —*PTI*

Political sparring in SL over privileges to ex-presidents

COLOMBO, 2 NOV

A Sri Lankan Cabinet sub-committee will soon review the privileges accorded to former presidents of the country and future actions on the matter will be taken based on its recommendations, the Presidential Secretariat has said.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's office on Friday also refuted reports that the security of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa has been reduced.

The statement by the Presidential Secretariat came after concerns raised by ex-presidents that the new Sri Lankan government under President Dissanayake would slash their privileges. In the run-up to the 21 September election, Dissanayake had vowed to stop all privileges of ex-presidents claiming they were a burden on the taxpayer.

In recent days the government has faced criticism over the reported move to slash the personal security provided to former president Rajapaksa. "The Presidential Secretariat has noted recent media reports claiming that the security of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa has been reduced," the statement said.

PHOTO: X

"The Presidential Secretariat states that all those reports are false," it added.

Furthermore, a Cabinet sub-committee has been established to evaluate the privileges of former presidents, and future decisions and actions will be taken based on the committee's recommendations, it added.

Opposition party leaders mounted an attack on Dissanayake, saying he would be responsible for any security breach to Rajapaksa as he was still under threat from the LTTE separatists for ending their decades-long military campaign. Sri Lanka has six living ex-presidents or widows and their privileges are provided under the 1986 Presidential Privileges Act. — *PTI*

BRAZIL CRITICISES VENEZUELA FOR RISING TENSIONS

SAO PAULO, 2 NOV

Brazil's government broke its silence Friday over growing tensions with neighbouring Venezuela, with the Foreign Ministry saying it was surprised by "the offensive tone" adopted by Venezuelan authorities toward Brazil. In recent days, Venezuela's government has escalated its criticism of Brazilian foreign relations officials and even President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a long-time ally.

"The choice of personal attacks and rhetorical escalations, instead of political and diplomatic channels, does not align with the respectful manner in which the Brazilian government treats Venezuela and its people," the Brazilian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. —*PTI*

N Korean soldiers sent to Ukrainian border

North Korean soldiers received some night vision devices, thermal imagers, collimator sights, and binoculars PHOTO: PTI

SEOUL, 2 NOV

Russia has armed North Korean troops deployed near the border with Ukraine with infantry weapons, Ukraine's military intelligence agency (HUR) reported on 2 November. According to HUR, North Korean soldiers received 60-mm mortars, AK-12 rifles, machine guns, sniper rifles, Feniks anti-tank guided missiles, and hand-held anti-tank grenade launchers. They also reportedly received some night vision devices, thermal imagers, collimator sights, and binoculars.

According to the Financial Times, Ukrainian intelligence officials are sceptical regarding the combat effectiveness of the North Korean troops, citing communication issues with their Russian counterparts as the main hurdle Moscow and Pyongyang will have to bridge.

Russia deployed more than 7,000 North Korean troops from Russia's Primorsky Krai to the Ukrainian border, the agency said. According to the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces Russia has lost 6,97,680 troops since the beginning of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February, 2022. This number includes 1,270 casualties Russian forces suffered over the past day. According to the report, Russia has also lost 9,170 tanks, 18,487 armoured fighting vehicles and many more. —*Agencies*

COST-OF-LIVING PROTESTS

29 Nigerian children may be sentenced to death for treason

ABUJA, 2 NOV

Twenty-nine children could be facing the death penalty in Nigeria after they were arraigned Friday for participating in a protest against the country's record cost-of-living crisis. Four of them collapsed in court due to exhaustion before they could enter a plea.

A total of 76 protesters were charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance and mutiny, according to the charge sheet seen by The Associated Press.

According to the charge sheet, the minors ranged in age from 14 to 17 years old. Frustration over the cost-of-living crisis has led to several mass protests in recent months. In August, at least 20 people were shot dead and hundreds more were arrested at a protest demanding better opportunities and jobs for young people.

A total of 76 protesters were charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance and mutiny PHOTO: X

The death sentence was introduced in the 1970s in Nigeria, but there have been no executions in the country since 2016. Akintayo Balogun, a private lawyer based in Abuja, said the Child Rights Act does not allow any child to be subject to criminal proceedings and sentenced to death.

"So taking minors before a federal high court is wrong, ab initio, except if the government is able to prove that the boys are all above 19 years," Balogun said.

The court eventually granted 10 million naira ($5,900) bail to each the defendants and imposed stringent conditions they are yet to meet, Marshal Abubakar, counsel to some of the boys, said.

Despite being one of the top crude oil producers in Africa, Nigeria remains one of the world's poorest countries. Chronic corruption means the lifestyle of its public officials rarely mirrors that of the general population. Medical professionals often strike to protest meager wages.

The country's politicians and lawmakers, often accused of corruption, are some of the best-paid in Africa. —*PTI*

Floods: Spain deploys 10,000 soldiers & cops

Mud covers the area in the aftermath of storm that in Paiporta, outskirts of Valencia, Spain on Saturday PHOTO: PTI

VALENCIA, 2 NOV

Spain's prime minister has ordered 5,000 more troops and 5,000 police officers and civil guards to the Valencia region as residents criticise local authorities over their response to the catastrophic flooding there. The death toll on Saturday rose to 211 people, with most fatalities in and around Valencia, Pedro Sánchez announced. The toll is expected to rise further.

Authorities in Valencia raised the death toll on Friday afternoon in what have been the deadliest floods in Spain's modern history. The state weather agency Aemet said early on Friday that four regions, including Valencia, remained on amber alert because of the risk of rain and storms, days after rivers of mud-coloured water left a trail of devastation.

The piles of vehicles and debris have trapped some residents in their homes while others are without electricity or stable phone service. —*Agencies*

Defence exports to touch ₹50,000 cr by 2030: Minister

KANPUR, 2 NOV

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday expressed confidence that the country will export more than Rs 50,000 crore defence items by 2029-30, adding that the government is committed to collaborate with the academia for self-reliance in defence production. Addressing the 65th Foundation Day celebrations at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) on Saturday, the Defence Minister called upon Indian youth to indigenously develop high-end technologies, which the country imports. Rajnath Singh said government's efforts of achieve self-reliance are yielding desired results as the defence exports, which were around just Rs 600 crore ten years ago, crossed a record number of Rs 21,000 crore in FY 2023-24. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

SBI appoints Debasish as CGM of New Delhi Circle

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday said it has appointed Debasish Mishra as the Chief General Manager of its New Delhi Circle. The appointment is effective 1 November, 2024, SBI said in a statement. He replaces Kalpesh K Avasia who recently retired. Mishra brings a wealth of experience across credit, operations, forex, IT, HR, and MSME sectors, both in India and overseas, it said. SBI's New Delhi circle comprises over 1,700 branches. *—PTI*

ACI appoints SGK Kishore as prez for APAC, Middle East

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

SGK Kishore, a senior GMR Group executive, has been appointed the new president for the Asia Pacific and Middle East of the world airport operators' apex body, Airport Council International (ACI), effective January 1 next year. Kishore, currently the executive director and chief innovation officer at GMR Airports, will succeed Emmanuel Menanteau, Board Director of Cambodia Airports/Regional Director, VINCI Airports, GMR group said in a statement. As President of Hong-Kong headquartered ACI-APAC & MID, he will be at the forefront of supporting and driving growth in the region, it stated. According to the GMR group, Kishore's leadership will focus on enhancing regional standards, fostering collaboration among members, and addressing challenges unique to this rapidly expanding aviation landscape. ACI APAC & MID represents the interests of over 600 airports in 47 member countries/territories. *—PTI*

CIL has to ramp up higher production, says Coal Minister

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Coal production through domestic sources is important to avoid expensive imports and Coal India Ltd (CIL) has to ramp up production to higher levels in the future, Coal minister G Kishan Reddy said, as the state-owned behemoth entered its 50th year. CIL accounts for over 80 per cent of the domestic coal output. Coal is yet to peak to its full potential in the country, Reddy said, urging CIL to increase production to even higher levels, as per a statement by the coal ministry. Production through domestic sources is important to avoid expensive imports, Reddy said, adding that Coal India has to ramp up production to higher levels in the future. Coal India Ltd (CIL) came into being on 1 November, 1975 as an apex holding company of the nationalised coking coal. *—PTI*

Sanctioned firms not in violation of law: MEA

US sanctions 19 firms for tech supplies to Russia amid war

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday reacted to the recent US sanctions imposed on several Indian firms and nationals, with a spokesperson from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stating that Indian companies have not violated any national laws.

The sanctions announced by the US State Department targets 19 Indian companies and two individuals accused of allegedly supplying materials and technology to Russia to support its military amid the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Randhir Jaiswal, MEA spokesperson, stated, "We have seen reports on US sanctions. India has a robust legal and regulatory framework on strategic trade and nonproliferation controls. We are also a member of three key multilateral non- proliferation export control regimes - the Wassenaar Arrangement, the Australia Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime, and have been effectively implementing relevant UNSC sanctions and UNSC resolution 1540 on non- proliferation."

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal PHOTO: PTI

"Our understanding is that the sanctioned transactions and companies are not in violation of Indian laws. Nevertheless, in keeping with India's established non-proliferation credentials, we are working with all the relevant Indian departments and agencies to sensitise Indian companies on applicable export control provisions, as also inform them on new measures being implemented that could impact Indian companies in certain circumstances," he added.

Indian companies named in the sanctions, such as Shreegee Impex Private Limited maintain they operate within Indian law and claim the sanctions will not impact their business.

The sanctioned Indian firms, including companies involved in aviation components, are accused of allegedly facilitating the supply of dual-use goods, which are items that can have both civilian and military applications. *—ANI*

NET PROFIT AT 6%

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Google India FY24 revenue soars 26%, profit at ₹1,425 cr

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Google India reported a 26 per cent year-on-year (YoY) revenue increase, reaching Rs 5,921 crore for FY24, compared to Rs 4,700 crore in FY23. This growth was largely fuelled by rising digital advertising in India and increased adoption of Google's enterprise products. Revenue from ongoing operations grew by 22.5 per cent to Rs 5,518 crore, up from Rs 4,504 crore last year, excluding income from discontinued operations.

- The company's gross advertising revenue rose by 11.3 per cent YoY, hitting Rs31,221 crore, up from Rs 28,040 crore in FY23, with net advertising sales increasing to Rs 2,743 crore from Rs 2,323 crore last year

The company's gross advertising revenue rose by 11.3 per cent YoY, hitting Rs31,221 crore, up from Rs 28,040 crore in FY23, with net advertising sales increasing to Rs 2,743 crore from Rs 2,323 crore last year. Google India's net profit recorded a modest 6 per cent growth to Rs 1,425 crore, up from Rs 1,342 crore in FY23, while profit from continuing operations soared by 60 per cent YoY to Rs 1,294 crore. However, net profit from discontinued operations dropped sharply by 76 per cent to Rs 130 crore.

Discontinued operations income, which includes results from Google's IT services business (transferred to Google IT Services India Private Limited in June 2023), added Rs 1,176 crore for FY24. If included, total revenue stands at Rs 7,097 crore, marking a 25 per cent decline from Rs 9,470 crore in FY23, reflecting the IT unit's demerger. The demerger was approved by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in May 2023, following an application filed in FY21.

—Salar News with agencies

TVS records highest monthly sales in Oct

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

TVS Motor Company recorded monthly sales of 489,015 units in October 2024 with a growth of 13 per cent as against 434,714 units in the month of October 2023.

Two-Wheeler

Total two-wheelers registered a growth of 14 per cent with sales increasing from 420,610 units in October 2023 to 478,159 units in October 2024. Domestic two-wheeler registered growth of 13 per cent with sales increasing from 344,957 units in October 2023 to 390,489 units in October 2024.

- EV sales registered a growth of 45 per cent with sales increasing from 20,153 units in October 2023 to 29,308 units in 2024

Motorcycle registered a growth of 14 per cent with sales increasing from 201,965 units in October 2023 to 230,822 units in October 2024. Scooter registered a growth of 17 per cent with sales increasing from 165,135 units in October 2023 to 193,439 units in October 2024.

PHOTO: X

EV sales registered a growth of 45 per cent with sales increasing from 20,153 units in October 2023 to 29,308 units in October 2024.

The Company's total exports registered a growth of 9 per cent with sales increasing from 87,952 units in October 2023 to 95,708 units in October 2024. Two-wheeler exports registered a growth of 16 per cent with sales increasing from 75,653 units in October 2023 to 87,670 units in October 2024.

Three-wheeler registered sales of 10,856 units as against 14,104 units in 2023. *—ANI*

PHOTO: PIXABAY

'India's 7% FY25 growth target relies on investment'

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Optimistic GDP growth projections for FY25 depend on strong government investment and effective inflation control for India to reach over 7 per cent growth, according to Ernst & Young (EY) report.

Recent reports indicate a mixed outlook, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintaining a cautious stance on monetary policy amid rising inflation.

In September 2024, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation was recorded at 5.5 per cent, pushing the average inflation for the second quarter of FY24 to 4.2 per cent, slightly above the RBI's expected target of 4.1 per cent.

Projections for the third quarter suggest CPI inflation could rise to 4.8 per cent, potentially delaying any interest rate reductions by the RBI, especially as inflation continues to exceed the desired mean target.

During its October monetary policy review, the RBI decided to retain the repo rate at 6.5 per cent, in light of the global trend toward rate cuts, including a 50 basis point reduction by the U.S. Federal Reserve in September.

For the remainder of the fiscal year, robust performance in personal income tax revenue--growing at 25.5 per cent--contrasts sharply with the negative growth of corporate income tax revenues at -6.0 per cent. This highlights the challenge of meeting the government's budgeted growth targets, especially as capital expenditure also faces a steep decline.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected a moderation of India's GDP growth from 8.2 per cent in FY24 to 7 per cent in FY25, and further to 6.5 per cent in FY26, attributing this slowdown to the exhaustion of pent-up demand from the pandemic. *—PTI*

India needs 10M new jobs yearly to sustain 6.5% GVA growth: Report

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

India will require approximately 10 million new jobs each year from FY25 to FY30 to maintain an average GVA (Gross Value Added) growth of 6.5 per cent annually, according to a Goldman Sachs report.

Incentivising affordable housing developments could stimulate the real estate sector, which employs over 80 per cent of the labor force within construction. This would provide a significant boost to job creation across various skill levels.

Establishing IT hubs to tier-2 and tier-3 cities and Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in smaller cities would reduce pressure on Tier-1 urban centers and increase job opportunities in underserved areas.

Shifting fiscal incentives toward labor-intensive manufacturing sectors, such as textiles, food processing, and furniture, could support job creation for low- to middle-skill workers.

- Over the past two decades, India added approximately 196 million jobs, with two-thirds of these positions created in the last decade

While the government's Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes have primarily benefited capital-intensive industries, Goldman Sachs notes an encouraging shift towards more labor-intensive sectors, including textiles, footwear, toys, and leather goods.

Over the past two decades, India added approximately 196 million jobs, with two-thirds of these positions created in the last decade. Significant shifts have occurred as more workers have transitioned from agricultural to construction and service roles.

Factors contributing to this rise include improved measurement practices, greater financial inclusion through credit schemes targeting women, and expanded opportunities in small and micro-enterprises.

India's demographic transition offers a unique 20-year window to capitalise on a low dependency ratio, with a sizable working-age population set to enter market. *—ANI*

Nara Lokesh PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Ecosystem must for industries in Andhra: Nara

NEW YORK, 2 NOV

The Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, has said that the progressive Government under the leadership of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, has introduced the ecosystem needed for setting up industries and also providing special incentives to provide employment to the youth on a large scale.

On the last day of his weeklong visit to the United States, Lokesh had a fruitful meeting with industrialists at a star hotel in New York City and explained in detail the facilities available in Andhra Pradesh for establishing their units.

The State has the largest road connectivity with a wide coastal network extending to 974 km along with air connectivity, the IT Minister said.

Informing them that an international airport will come into operation at Bhogapuram in just another 18 months, Lokesh said that this will totally change the complete profile of North Andhra. *—ANI*

ADB lauds India's fossil fuel subsidy reforms

NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

India has since 2010 made noteworthy progress on fossil fuel subsidy reform through a calibrated 'remove', 'target', and 'shift' approach, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a new report.

"By carefully balancing the combined effect of three key policy levers - retail prices, tax rates, and subsidies on selected petroleum products - the country was able to reduce its fiscal subsidy in the oil and gas sector by 85 per cent, from an unsustainable peak of USD 25 billion in 2013 to USD 3.5 billion in 2023," it said.

In its 'Asia-Pacific Climate Report', ADB said India gradually phased out the subsidy on petrol and diesel (from 2010 to 2014) and carried out incremental tax increases (from 2010 to 2017), which created fiscal space to increase government support for renewable energy, electric vehicles, and strengthening of electricity infrastructure.

From 2010 to 2017, Government of India introduced a cess (tax) on coal production and imports. Around 30 per cent of the cess collections were channelled to a national clean energy and environment fund. *—PTI*

12 NEW LANGUAGES

NSE launches app to foster inclusivity

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) launched its official mobile app, NSEIndia, and expanded its corporate website, www.nseindia.com, to support eleven regional languages on the occasion of Diwali.

According to NSE, this dual launch reflects NSE's dedication to democratising financial information, making it easier for investors across the nation to engage with India's capital markets.

With this latest initiative, NSE's website now offers content in a total of twelve languages, adding Assamese, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Punjabi, Tamil, and Telugu to the previously available English, Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati.

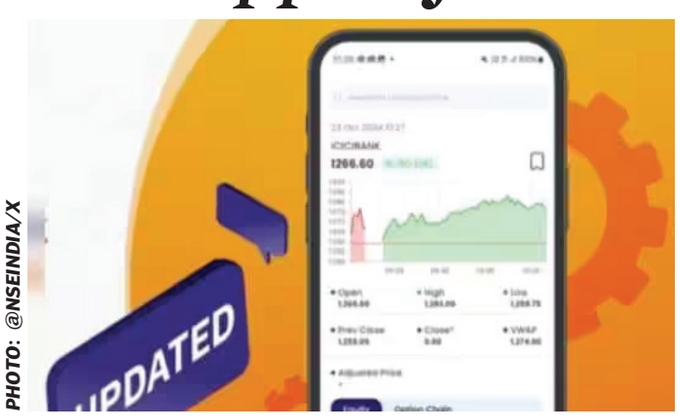


PHOTO: @NSEINDIA/X

This linguistic expansion will reach investors across linguistic and regional barriers, fostering increased engagement and inclusivity.

The newly launched NSEIndia mobile app, now available on both the Apple App Store and Android Play Store, promises an intuitive and secure experience for investors on the go.

Key features of the app's initial release include an overview of indices, market snapshots, market trends, and turnover; quick summaries of Nifty 50's top gainers, losers, and most active stocks, along with a convenient stock search and personalised watchlist feature; a specialized option chain section for easy access to options trading data, including active calls, puts, and open interest, providing investors with insights for informed decisions. *—ANI*

- This linguistic expansion will reach investors across linguistic and regional barriers, fostering increased engagement and inclusivity

AI-DRIVEN TRADING COULD BLUR THE LINE BETWEEN TRUTH & LIES: NSE MD

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Marking its 30th anniversary on Diwali, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) celebrated its legacy of innovation with the launch of a multi-language website and mobile apps, enhancing accessibility for investors across India.

During the Muhurat Trading session, a tradition held on Diwali, NSE Managing Director Ashish Kumar Chauhan extended warm wishes for the new year, Vikram Samvat 2081, and highlighted NSE's commitment to providing accurate and reliable information to the trading community.

Chauhan said, "Some people leave their decisions to trade and invest on software, just like driver-less cars. This and many more dangerous uses of AI are being made. With persistent use of AI, the line between truth and lies will become blurred."

NSE Managing Director Ashish Kumar Chauhan PHOTO: X

Chauhan noted, "NSE came into being on 3 November 1994, on Diwali, so today marks 30 years of NSE. Traditionally, Gujarati and Marwadi businessmen close their account books, marking last day of year. *—ANI*

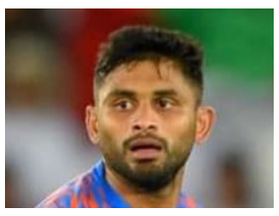


PHOTO: X/ @IFTWC

Ex-India defender Edathodika retires from football

MALAPPURAM, 2 NOV

Former Indian defender Anas Edathodika has announced his retirement from professional football, drawing curtains on his 17-year senior professional career. The 37-year-old has represented India on 21 occasions, besides featuring in 172 competitive club encounters. Taking to his social media handles on Saturday, Edathodika shared an emotional video of his accolades, besides penning a passionate note. "It's time to hang up my boots and say farewell to professional football. From the fields of Malappuram to stadiums across India, this journey has been a dream come true," he noted. "I started out with nothing but a love for the game and a heart full of hope, and today, I'm blessed to close this chapter right here in my hometown of Malappuram. It's been a journey filled with challenges, triumphs, and invaluable lessons that have shaped who I am. Considering Edathodika's senior career, he began his stint with Mumbai FC in 2007 before moving to Pune FC in 2011. *—PTI*

Pranavi Urs moves to tied 18th in Riyadh

RIYADH, 2 NOV

Indian golfer Pranavi Urs carded a solid 3-under 69 in the second round, moving into the Top 20 of the Aramco Team Series presented by PIF – Riyadh. She is now tied for 18th place with one round remaining. Pranavi, playing in her rookie season on the LET, had five birdies against two bogeys. Three of her birdies came in a four-hole stretch between the 15th and the 18th after starting on the 10th. Diksha Dagar after a par round in the first round was 1-under71 in the second but was way down in Tied-58th place. She had three birdies against two bogeys. Slovenia's Pia Babnik leads the individual competition on 14-under. Her round had a sensational 18 greens in regulation at the Riyadh Golf Club. However, Fatima Fernandez Cano, who carded a bogey-free 10-under-par 62. England's Charley Hull rebounded to record a five-under-par score of 67 – aided by a brilliant back nine. *—PTI*

Guridi goal gives Alaves 1-0 win over Mallorca

MADRID, 2 NOV

Jon Guridi scored late to give Alaves a 1-0 win at home against Mallorca in La Liga and snap a five-game losing streak. A sixth consecutive defeat would have marked the Basque club's worst league run in more than three years but Guridi's goal with 14 minutes to go proved the difference. A lucky rebound fell to him right in front of goal and he made no mistake from three meters out. It was the midfielder's first goal of the season. "We've conceded goals in the last few games, so we needed this," Guridi said. "After five defeats doubts can arise (but) we are united." The result lifted Alaves into 12th place in La Liga. Mallorca fell one place to seventh. *—PTI*

Isak's header gives Newcastle 1-0 win over Arsenal in EPL

NEWCASTLE, 2 NOV

Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 loss at Newcastle United for the second year in a row on Saturday to make it three straight Premier League games without a win for the Gunners. Alexander Isak's early header was enough for Eddie Howe's team to end a five-game winless run in the league as the hosts easily neutralised Arsenal's struggling attack. Newcastle carried that momentum into the start of the game, as Isak found space in-between Arsenal centre-backs William Saliba and Gabriel to head home a pinpoint cross from Anthony Gordon in the 12th minute. *—PTI*

Spinners do their job well; Mumbai set for thrilling finish

Day 2: India reduce NZ to 171 for 9 in 2nd inngs at stumps

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Exploiting the spin-friendly conditions, Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin chiselled through the New Zealand batting line-up to bring India to a stage from where they can force a face-saving victory in the third Test which is now headed for an intriguing finish.

New Zealand ended day two at 171 for nine with an overall lead of 143, which might look small but even a target in the vicinity of 150 will pose serious challenge for the Indian batters, considering the fast deteriorating Wankhede track.

This was after half-centuries from Shubman Gill (90) and Rishabh Pant (60) and a crucial 38 not out from Washington Sundar gave India a slender 28-run lead as they put on board 263. A total of 15 wickets fell on the second day, underlining the fact that life won't be easy for the hosts while batting fourth.

Ashwin (3/63) found his rhythm while Jadeja (4/52) added four more dismissals after his 5/65 in the first essay to keep India's hopes alive to avert a clean sweep at home for the first time. Ajaz Patel (7) was at the crease when Jadeja cleaned up Matt Henry (10) for the penultimate wicket on the final ball on the second day.

India's Ravichandran Ashwin celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Glenn Phillips at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, on Saturday *PHOTO: PTI*

Will Young's gutsy 51 was the only resistance from the Kiwis who succumbed to pressure, after Patel (5/103) recorded yet another five-wicket haul. Having made a subdued impact so far, Ashwin's delight on getting Rachin Ravindra (4) stumped was evident as he beat the charge of the batter with bounce and turn.

With Glenn Phillips (26) using the long handle to a good effect, Ashwin cleaned up the New Zealand batter for another crucial breakthrough. Young, who batted as solid as he did in the first innings, was Ashwin's third victim giving the bowler catching practice after being outfoxed on a carrom ball.

Tom Blundell (4) chopped one onto his stumps off Jadeja while Ashwin cleaned up Phillips, who had switched to aggressive batting knowing New Zealand desperately needed more runs. *—PTI*

ISL: Mumbai seek winning momentum against Kerala

MUMBAI, 2 NOV

Mumbai City FC will look to return to winning ways when they take on visiting Kerala Blasters FC in their Indian Super League match here on Sunday.

The Islanders, determined to bounce back after a draw in the last match against Odisha FC, will aim to avoid a second straight defeat to Kerala Blasters FC -- a streak they haven't experienced since the 2021-22 season.

With Mumbai City FC and Kerala Blasters FC tied closely in standings, every point counts, especially in the highly competitive race for the playoffs.

Mumbai City FC have recently faced challenges in breaking down defences, netting fewer than two goals in each of their last two home matches. The Islanders haven't seen a goalless stretch of this sort since early 2023, and they'll be eager to rediscover their attacking form.

Odisha FC, NE desperate to rise above mid-table

An exciting clash is set to take place in Guwahati between NorthEast United FC and Odisha FC, with both teams eager to climb out of the mid-table in the second match of Sunday's double-header.

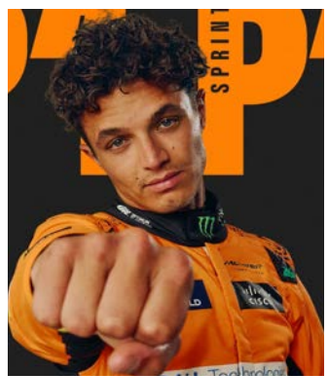
The Highlanders and the Juggernauts have eight points from six matches each, placed fifth and seventh on the table, respectively.

While NEUFC are coming off an enthralling 5-0 victory over Jamshedpur FC, OFC settled for a competitive 1-1 draw at home to MCFC. *—PTI*

ISL 2024 SEASON

FC Goa beats Bengaluru FC 3-0 in the Indian Super League 2024-25 match at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao, Goa on Saturday. This is Bengaluru FC loses first match of season *PHOTO: FSDL*

Brazilian GP: F1 braces for more Verstappen-Norris drama



Max Verstappen and Lando Noriis *PHOTOS: X/@REDBULLRACING/ @MCLARENF1*

SAO PAULO, 2 NOV

Max Verstappen suggests he won't change his aggressive driving this weekend at the Brazilian Grand Prix as he bids for a fourth successive Formula 1 title.

Lando Norris needs a win at Interlagos in Sao Paulo to maintain any realistic title hopes. New elements could spice up the clash between the drivers, who have received penalties in the past two races in Austin, Texas and Mexico for their boldness on the track. Interlagos has a new tarmac, rain is expected all weekend, and Verstappen received a five-place penalty on the grid after he and Red Bull decided to use a new engine.

Friday's free practice was not a good omen for Verstappen; he finished 15th, more than one second behind Norris, who clocked the best lap in his McLaren. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who also has a shot at the title, was sixth. The sprint race qualifier in the afternoon was better for Verstappen; he was fourth but almost one second behind leader and Norris teammate Oscar Piastri. Norris was second.

Saturday will feature the penultimate sprint race of the season and a tribute to three-time world champion Ayrton Senna, who died 30 years ago. Seven-time F1 champion Lewis Hamilton will drive a McLaren once steered by Senna in front of 60,000 fans.

Norris closed the gap on Verstappen to 47 points in Mexico after a furious encounter that caused penalties to the Dutchman amounting to 20 seconds. The British driver was penalized in the previous race at the U.S. Grand Prix as he battled the defending champion.

The Monegasque driver also had to face the stewards in Brazil for swearing in a press conference after the Mexican GP last weekend. He was fined almost $11,000, of which half is suspended as long as there is no further breach of a similar nature within the next 12 months. *—PTI*

SPAIN MOTOGP CANCELLED DUE TO FLOOD

VALENCIA, 2 NOV

Valencia will not host the final MotoGP event of the season organisers announced owing to the devastating flooding in the east of Spain earlier this week.

The motorcycle race was due to be held on 17 November and a new venue will be "confirmed as soon as possible" said race organisers in a statement on Friday. Many of the top MotoGP riders had called for the race to be moved away from Valencia after the deadly floods, which have killed at least 205 people. Floods devastated towns, piling up cars collapsing bridges and filling streets with mud in Spain's biggest natural disaster for decades. "We have been in constant contact with the local authorities and the circuit to best assess how we can help and how we should proceed," said MotoGP. *—Al Jazeera*

PHOTO: X

Kohli to complete 20 yrs with RCB

BENGALURU, 2 NOV

Virat Kohli has dropped elaborate hints that he would like to continue playing competitive cricket till 2027 with an aim to complete 20 years with Royal Challengers Bengaluru after being retained by the franchise for a hefty fee of Rs 21 crore.

Having entered the twilight zone of his illustrious career, speculations are rife about how long the 36-year-old would continue in top flight cricket having endured a prolonged lull for the last four years since the start of Covid-19.

Kohli has been playing for RCB ever since IPL's inception in 2008 and is the leading run-scorer in the competition, amassing over 8,000 runs at a healthy if not spectacular strike rate of 131.97, including eight hundreds and 55 fifties.

Virat Kolhi *PHOTO: ANI*

"At the end of this cycle, it is going to be 20 years that I am going to be playing for RCB and that in itself is a very, very special feeling for me," Kohli told 'RCB Bold Diaries' indicating that he aims to continue for at least another three years till 2027.

"I have never thought that I am going to play so many years for one team, but the relationship has truly become special over so many years.

Meanwhile, following Kohli's retention, RCB head coach Andy Flower admitted that while the retention itself is not surprising, he would be the key to RCB's success in the coming years. *—PTI*

'We are hoping to pick up our players from last year'

New Delhi, 2 Nov

Their objective of forming a strong core achieved with the retention of men like Nicholas Pooran and Mayank Yadav, Lucknow Super Giants are now aiming to bring back their players from last year's squad in the upcoming IPL mega auction, said head coach Justin Langer on Saturday. LSG ended retained five players -- four of whom are Indians, and two of whom are uncapped, including swashbuckling West Indian batter Pooran. "We are really pleased with announcing the four of the most talented Indian players in the country at the moment. We are setting a base for those strong Indian players -- Mayank Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Ayush Badoni, Mohsin Khan -- four incredibly talented players and I'm excited about that," Langer said in a video posted on X by the franchise. *—PTI*

PARIS MASTERS

ZVEREV BEATS TSITSIPAS

Alexander Zverev in action during the match against Tsitsipas in Paris, on Saturday *PHOTO: X/ @ROLEXPMASTERS*

PARIS, 2 NOV

Alexander Zverev advanced to the semifinals of the Paris Masters by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-4 and knocking the Greek player out of contention for the ATP Finals.

The third-seeded German saved the only break point he faced. Zverev, the French Open runner-up, next faces 2022 champion Holger Rune for a shot at the title. He's into his third Paris semifinals in the past four years, though he's never won the hard-court tournament.

The first break point opportunity came in the 11th game as Tsitsipas struggled with his first serve. Zverev got the break for 6-5 on an unforced error.

Tsitsipas then saved two set points but squandered his only break point chance with his 17th unforced error before Zverev closed out the set. Zverev broke again in the third game of the second set to take full control. He rattled off 12 straight points in his final three service games.

With the victory, Zverev became the first player born in the 1990s to record 100 wins over top-20 players. Daniil Medvedev is on 99.

The 10th-seeded Tsitsipas, who reached the ATP Finals for five consecutive years, had 28 unforced errors to 18 winners.

Rune outlasted Alex de Minaur 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 in a 2 1/2-hour baseline fight. Rune improved to 3-2 against the Australian. Grigor Dimitrov's hopes of making the ATP Finals were set back after the 2023 finalist was upset by 2018 champion Karen Khachanov 6-2, 6-3 for the first time. Khachanov lost their four previous matches. *—PTI*

Bopanna-Ebden pair out of the tournament

Veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden made a quarterfinal exit from the Paris Masters after suffering a hard-fought defeat in the men's doubles contest here. The third seeded Indo-Australian duo toiled for one hour 46 minutes before going down 6-7, 5-7 to the Dutch-Croatian combo of Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Mektic at the ATP 1000 event on Friday. There was little separating the two pairs with the first set going into tiebreaker. Bopanna and Ebden had a a few chances but Koolhof and Mektic saved set points to win the tie-break and take a 1-0 lead. Bopanna and Ebden provided Koolhof and Mektic with a crucial break in the 12th game following a double fault. *—PTI*

U19 BOXING C'SHIPS

Krisha Verma strikes gold, five others win silver

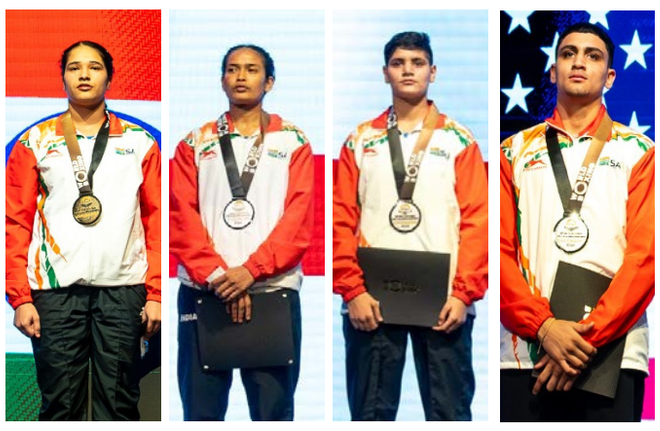
NEW DELHI, 2 NOV

Young Indian boxer Krisha Verma won the gold in the women's 75kg category while five others signed off with silver medals at the inaugural U-19 World Championships organised by World Boxing in Colorado, USA.

While Krisha notched up a unanimous 5-0 decision over Germany's Simon Lerika in the 75kg summit clash, Chanchal Chaudhary (women's 48kg), Anjali Kumari Singh (women's 57kg), Vini (women's 60kg), Akanksha Phalaswal (women's 70kg) and Rahul Kundu (men's 75kg) lost their respective finals.

Chanchal had to settle for a second-place finish after she was disqualified while Anjali went down 0-5 to Mia-Tiah Ayton of England.

Akansha and Rahul lost be an identical 1-4 margin to Lilly Deacon of England and USA's Awinongya Joseph respectively.



Krisha Verma, Anjali Singh, Akansha and Rahul Kundu with their medals after winning the medals at U-19 Boxing Championship *PHOTO: X/@BFI_official*

Meanwhile, Vini lost via 2-3 split verdict to England's Ella Lonsdale. Five female boxers and a male boxer will fight for gold in the final on Saturday.

This tournament is the World Boxing's first global event. World Boxing is a breakaway organisation that was launched to ensure boxing's place in the Olympic movement. It aims to replace the International Boxing Association (IBA) as the world governing body for boxing. *—PTI*